

J. E. G. REBELLO DA FONTOURA.

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THE
Impostors Detected:

OR, THE
LIFE of a PORTUGUESE.

IN WHICH
The Artifices and Intrigues of ROMISH
PRIESTS are humorously displayed.

THE WHOLE
Interpersed with several curious and entertaining
Anecdotes, relating to some of the principal
Personages of the Kingdom of PORTUGAL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N :

Printed for W. BRISTOW, in St. Paul's Church-
Yard; and C. ETHERINGTON, at York.

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THE

Impostors Detected:

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

Printed by J. Smith, in St. Paul's Church-yard.

1762.



T H E

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

IF I thought I was writing for the public, I should have given an account of the motives that induced me to present it with the following history; but as these sheets are intended wholly for my own use, I do not think I am accountable to any one. It is to my paper alone that I intrust these adventures to be preserved, to refresh my memory with upon occasion; and the better to conceal them from my own countrymen, I have written them in a language little understood amongst us. What might appear a piece of affectation in any other country than this, is here more prudent than may be at first imagined. Every one knows how much our Portuguese are addicted to superstition, and the great restraint we lie under from the inquisition; consequently

ly that one cannot be too much upon ones guard against both the one and the other.

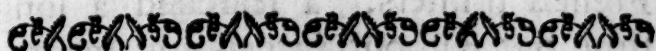
I am not, however, under any apprehension that the judicial part of my readers will blame the design of this work. We know that all the vices of mankind owe a tribute to censure, and nothing but popular prejudice has hitherto exempted a particular class of men from their share in it, as they perhaps deserve it more than the rest; I mean the monks and clergy of this kingdom, who have become so powerful and formidable amongst us, that our neighbours have by way of derision given us the name of, *The kingdom of monks*. It is against the vices of this set of men that I have chiefly levelled in this work; not from any animosity or private pique to them, but from that general abhorrence which every honest man ought to have for wickedness wherever he meets with it. And after all, I can see no reason for exempting those gentlemen from the censure that every one has a right to pass on the vices of mankind. Is it from the sacredness of their profession, which the most part of
them

them dishonour by their lives and actions? Or is the nobleness of their character, which ought to induce them to live more uprightly than the rest of mankind, more sacred than that of kings, who are the living representatives of God on earth, and yet whose vices history has not spared? Or will it be said that it is through fear of exposing the profession itself to contempt? a fear as ridiculous as ill founded. Is the magisterial function less respectable because there has been, and ever will be, some iniquitous judges, whose vices have been exposed? Are kings less honored and obeyed because history teaches us that some of them have been very vicious and abandoned? No! for on the contrary, this mixture of good and evil makes us more admire the watchfulness and providence of God over his church, which still continues to subsist, notwithstanding the scandalous lives and behaviour of the greatest part of its ministers, and more esteem those who worthily fill the duties of their calling. None but womanish and weak minds will take offence at the stories related in this little work, concerning some of our bad ecclesiasticks. However, I shall spare them

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the trouble, by keeping these sheets concealed, not that I imagine the opinions of such as these would have any weight with persons of a judicious way of thinking, who look upon men according to the uprightness of their conduct, and not the rank or station they hold in life.

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T H E

Editor's Advertisement.

IT is a just observation that most things owe their discovery to chance. This little history, with which we now present the public, is a proof of it. Being obliged some few years ago to take a journey to Padua, I happened to arrive at the time that they were exposing to sale the library of the celebrated Dr. Algaberti: amongst the lot of books which I purchased, I met with the following MSS. which at that time I thought of little signification; but having given it to two French gentlemen of my acquaintance to peruse, they thought so well of it, that they engaged me to consent to let it be published. This was attended with some trouble, as
it

it was very difficult to find good French printers. I searched a long time but without success; at length, wearied with their repeated importunities, I determined to put it into the hands of the best workmen I could meet with in the country. But notwithstanding the care my friends took to revise the sheets as they came from the press, it was impossible to prevent some few errors from escaping them; however, as these are for the most part very trivial, it is hoped that the reader will overlook them, in consideration of the singularity and amusement he will meet with in the work itself.

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THE
 Impostors Detected:
 OR, THE
 LIFE of a PORTUGUESE.

BOOK I.

CHAP. I.

Ranucio's birth and education.

 ON PEDRO D'ALETES, after having made a considerable fortune in the Brazils, returned to Lisbon his native country, where he married a lady named Donna Hortensia, who brought him a great many children: of this numerous offspring I was unfortunately the seventh.

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As the laws of our country left me no room to hope for any considerable portion where there was so numerous a family, my father endeavoured to make me amends for this caprice of fortune, by giving me an education that might supply the place of larger possessions.

He did not act as most parents too frequently do, who trust the education of their children to a set of men who make a kind of trade of it; but as he wisely considered it as a second life, he resolved to take the charge of my instruction upon himself.

To a thorough knowledge of the Belles Letters he joined what was something extraordinary in a man of his station, an easy and simple method of teaching them. After having himself put me in a capacity of understanding most of our best authors, he procured me proper masters to teach me history, geography, music, and the languages mostly used throughout Europe: in a word, he let me want nothing that he thought necessary to form what the world calls a compleat gentleman.

Being endowed by nature with a quick apprehension, I soon made myself master of these accomplishments, and at the
 . age

age of seventeen saw myself in a condition to appear in the world with some degree of consideration. But my natural volatility made it not easy for me to fix upon the particular way of life I should embrace. Don Pedro my father, who knew the bad consequences of precipitating youth, was not very pressing with me on that head. On the contrary he set before me the necessity of well weighing these matters before coming to a conclusion, and left me at full liberty to make such choice as should appear most agreeable to me. But that I might be sufficiently prepared against that time, he made me go through the several classes. After this I read law; and as he was very desirous to have me well instructed in the principles of religion, (which he always considered as an essential thing to every one who would live like a Christian, and an honest man) he procured me a master for theology.

The person he pitched upon for this purpose was not one of those pedants by profession who take up three or four years of a pupil's time in filling his head with an useless heap of school jargon, but was a truly venerable old man, one

grown grey in the study of the sacred writings, and who, to the deepest erudition, added a life of most exemplary piety.

This worthy person, whom my father made choice of for my preceptor, was called Don Poketos, and came of a very good family in the province of Estremadura. In his early days he renounced his country and friends, to devote himself to a life of apostolic labor, intending to end his days in the Indies, in the quality of a missionary : but some revolutions that happened in the country he had chosen for his residence, obliged him to leave it, and return to Europe, with an intention to settle in Portugal : but his persecutions did not cease here : for, almost as soon as he came to Lisbon, he had new ones to encounter from the monks and clergy, who, unable to bear the tacit reproach they received from his holy and edifying manner of living, they sought occasion, in his great learning, and the warm zeal he shewed for the instruction of youth, to work his ruin. Thus does the hellish fiend frequently turn the very virtues of good men into a means for their persecution : in short, he was summoned before the inquisition,

upon

upon an accusation of heresy, and a design to pervert the morals of youth.

Don Poketos would most certainly have appeared, in order to justify himself from these villainous calumnies, and confound all his enemies, by the most undeniable proofs of his innocence, had he not been prevented from doing it by some of the best and most worthy people in Lisbon, who remonstrated to him, that it would be much better to keep out of the way for some little time, and thereby elude the malice and fury of his enemies; they promising to employ, during his absence, the duke of Vasconcel, who had a particular veneration and esteem for him, to extricate him from this affair. Poketos suffered himself to be persuaded by their intreaties, and kept himself concealed for some months; at the end of which he was suffered to appear again in public, but on condition that he should neither teach nor preach for the future. It was about this time that my father became acquainted with him, and engaged him to come home to our house, where he intrusted him with the care of our education; an offer that this good man accepted with more joy than if the

king had nominated him to a bishoprick.

He taught us all successively, and we profited so well by his lessons, that I may venture to say without vanity, few families in Lisbon were better versed in their religion. I studied under him for the space of two years, when finding the rest of my brothers all provided for, and myself at an age to enter into the world, I began to think in earnest of the way of life I should embrace. The care that had been taken of my education left me abundant room for chusing. The knowlege of the mathematics and science of arms, fitted me for a good officer. I already knew enough of the law to make a tolerable magistrate, and of theology to qualify me for a good divine. The latter of these professions seemed to suit the best with my inclination. This was the fruit of the instructions I had received from Don Poketos. There was but one thing which made me hesitate, which was the strict purity of life required in those who embrace that state, and which, as my venerable preceptor often told me, was such as might make even the angels themselves tremble. This consideration kept me for some time in suspense,

suspence; and an accident that afterwards happened, which gave me an opportunity of being personally acquainted with the manner of living practised now a-days by those in the monastic state, gave me a greater disgust to it, than before I had had an inclination.

C H A P. II.

Ranucio falls ill. The manner in which he is treated.

MY father having sent me a little way into the country on some business, which he was prevented from finishing himself, I made such dispatch, that at my return I was seized with a violent pleurisy. When I came home I found nobody in the house. My father was at a country-seat which we had, about six miles from Lisbon, and where we used frequently to pass three or four days at a time. As for my mother, she was upon a religious party with three or four female zealots of her acquaintance, to the recolet fathers in the Campo do Cural.

I was scarcely lain down on the bed in order to get a little ease, before in she came with her four holy sisters, who having heard I was taken ill, thought proper to pay me a visit. They began the conversatoin by a tedious sermon on the duty of resignation to the will of Providence, and the little value to be set
on

on this life ; ending with a most serious and pressing exhortation to confess myself as soon as possible.

I told them there was time enough for that, and thought that it would be proper in the first place to send for a physician. Upon this they began to read me a second lecture ; so that, to be quit of them, I was obliged to promise to do just as they would have me.

As soon as they were gone, I earnestly intreated my mother to send away in all haste for a physician, as I should have more confidence in a single prescription, than in all the sermons of these female bigots. We had a very skilful physician that belonged to the family, called Dr. Campanello ; but my mother, who was so very religious, that even in her household affairs she would do nothing without the advice of her ghostly directors, had dismissed Campanello, to introduce one Dr. Carmuelo.

This latter had a pension from the clergy, in acknowledgment of the services he had in done them on many occasions, and still continues to do them. To this man my mother sent, desiring him to come to me immediately ; but received for answer, that he could not

possibly come till the next morning, because he was taken up with dispatching a fat canon, who had been recommended to him for a stroke of his office by four young licenciates, who only waited for his death to be put in possession of his benefices.

I found myself therefore obliged to bear my disorder with patience. Carmuelo was as punctual in his promise to my mother, as he had been to that he had given the young licenciates; for the next morning, the very instant he had put the canon in possession of the other world, he came to our house. After having spent a considerable time in enquiring into the symptoms of my disorder, he very gravely gave it as his opinion; that it was a pleurisy. There was no occasion to be a very great physician to find that out; but he must certainly have been a very notable assassin, that could prescribe in the manner he did. He ordered that I should take none but cooling medicines, and that all my drink should be cooled with ice. When I heard him give these orders, I thought I heard my death-doom. He saw my consternation, and thinking to make me easy, “Seignor Ranucio, said he, fear
nothing

nothing from my prescriptions. Tho' they may appear a little new to you, and out of the common road, they are not the less efficacious on that account; and the clergy, to whom I have the honour of being a pensionary, have always found great benefit from them."

"I sincerely believe what you say, good doctor Carmuelo, replied I. You work for them; I know it: but you are not likely to enrich them by my funeral, I assure you; nor to send me after the princess of Brazil, whom you murdered the other day by the same way of treatment."

"If the medicines I gave her, replied he, had not the desired effect, that was no fault of mine. The small-pox, of which she died, is one of those obstinate disorders, that, like spoiled children, will never stir out of the way you have once let them take; it has hitherto been accustomed to cordials, and cannot reconcile itself to the modern practice, so directly opposite to the former. It does not relish our prescriptions, and will sooner carry off the sick, than it will suffer them to be cured in our way; but that does not make us in the least more pliable; we are resolved to be as obstinate

obstinate as this impertinent distemper, and will stand out against all its efforts, till we have at length compelled it to yield to our medicines.

“It is just the same, added he, with respect to the present disorder. The remedies I have ordered for you are doubtless out of the common road; but you will not find the less benefit from them on that account: besides, they are directly conformable to the new system of physic now adapted.” He concluded all these fine reasonings with a Greek aphorism, which was as suitable to the subject as the medicines he had just ordered me were to my disorder: in short, the result of this visit was, that I determined not to observe his orders in one single instance.

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

Ranucio recovers; to whom the cure is attributed: what happened to him afterwards.

IN the mean while my mother's female friends, who had paid me the visit the evening before, lost no time in spreading abroad the news of my disorder. The women, especially your religious ones, are the best trumpeters in the world. In twelve hours time there was not a convent in Lisbon that did not know of my illness, with all the circumstances attending it; and as Donna Hortensia my mother had a general acquaintance among them, there was a continual concourse of monks at the house all the next day, who came to comfort her under her affliction, and to administer all the relief in their power to me.

In this pious intention they had brought a whole cargo of their most valuable and approved relicks, and were just going to make a trial of their efficacy upon me, when, unfortunately for them, my father, who had heard of my disorder, came in upon us. The antipathy which

which they knew he had both for them and their holy trumpery, put a sudden damp to their zeal: therefore, contenting themselves with giving me a pious exhortation to resignation and patience, they took their leaves, to the no small regret of Donna Hortensia, who expected no less than an infallible cure.

My father's first care was to send away for Dr. Campanello, who came in an instant. He told us, he was just come from the Cordelier's convent, where he had been three days attending the guardian, whom at length, with the utmost difficulty, he had recovered of a violent surfeit from an over debauch.

Campanello did not amuse himself, as his brother physician had done, with reading a long dissertation upon the nature of my disorder, but immediately set about applying the proper remedies to it. He ordered me to have a large quantity of blood taken away directly, which was done in his presence. I found myself somewhat eased by the operation. It was repeated a second time that day, but with not altogether so good an effect as at first; therefore, the next morning, he ordered me to be bled again a third time: but I still grew worse. The
doctor

doctor then thought it proper, for fear of a sudden surprise, that I should settle my conscience, which I did with great spirit and resignation : and indeed it was high time ; for I had scarce finished, when I fell into a deep swoon, which made every one present give me over for dead.

You may easily imagine the grief and distress that the whole family were in ; nothing was to be heard but cries and lamentations. My mother especially was in a condition to have melted the most obdurate heart. Campanello, touched with her distress, and the melancholy condition he saw me in, exhausted all the power of his art to bring me out of this deadly swoon ; but all his endeavours proved fruitless.

My unhappy mother no longer knew what saint to have recourse to : there was not a single one in heaven, from the highest to the lowest, to whom she had not recommended me in an especial manner : at length, not knowing what to do for me, she bethought herself of a last expedient, which I relate in this place, only to shew how far a mother's fondness for her child, and her great love for the clergy, may carry her. As she looked upon me already lost to this world,

world, she promised, in the great excess of her grief, that, if I recovered from this illness, I should immediately enter into the order of St. Francis.

No sooner had she made this vow, than, as chance would have it, I gave some signs of life. She immediately cry'd out, "A miracle, a miracle!" and, throwing her arms about my neck, earnestly exhorted me to ratify the vow she had just made on my account. I was still so lethargic, that I did not understand a syllable of what she said to me. All that I could do in the low and weak condition I was in, was to testify my gratitude to her for the care and concern she shewed for me, by tenderly pressing her hand: this she took for a sign of my concurrence with her in what she had been doing.

And now the doctor seeing me recovered from my swoon, redoubled his assiduity, and ordered me some medicines that met with the desired success, inasmuch that, a few hours afterwards, (thanks to heaven and his great skill!) I found myself considerably better.

Donna Hortensia attributed this happy change wholly to the power of the saint, who doubtless had been no obstacle to it.

I now began to recover health and strength every day ; so that in a very little time, by a strict observance of the regimen prescribed me by Campanello, I became perfectly well. To recruit me more effectually, it was proposed that I should take a jaunt into the country. I have already observed, that we had a country seat a few miles from Lisbon : but being situated on the river-side, it was imagined the air might not be so wholesome for me, as I was just upon recovery ; and therefore my father asked me, if I should like to go and pass a few months at his brother the licentiate's. This ecclesiastic had one of the best livings in the diocese he belonged to, and situated in a most delightful and healthy spot. I readily embraced this proposal, which was the more agreeable to me, as I still found a propensity in myself to a sacerdotal life, and had now an opportunity of observing how those of that profession lived.

Donna Hortensia, who knew the curate to be as great an enemy to the monks as she herself was bigotted to them, used all her endeavours to dissuade me from taking this journey. " My dear child, said she, you are
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but just recovered from an illness which we all thought would have deprived us of you for ever, and you begin already to talk of leaving us! Can you have forgot the promise you made to God, when he snatched you from the arms of death? Consider, child, you have much more serious matters to think of, than going to amuse yourself at your uncle's."

This discourse was alike mysterious to my father and myself. He desired my mother to explain herself; which she did, by relating to him the pretended miracle that had been wrought upon me while I lay in my trance. It would be difficult to express my father's surprise and mine at hearing this. Don Pedro asked me, if I had really made any such promise. I assured him I had never so much as entertained the least notion of it; and that even supposing I had done any thing of the kind during my being senseless, (which by the way was hardly possible) I knew enough to know that such sort of promises can in no wise be binding.

"So then, Madam, said my father, turning very gravely towards his wife, your ghostly directors have thought proper
to

to make use of you to dispose of my son for me! But, pray tell me, are children given us to dispose of in that manner? Do you think the power that nature has given us over them is to make us treat them like savages? No, no; we are their parents only to render them as happy as we possibly can: and what happiness do you imagine your son could find in a state, where now-a-days there is less charity and goodness to be met with than in the world! But, whatever may be your engagements, I declare, for my part, that I will never consent that a son of mine should turn monk. I have too great a regard for religion, and too much value for my blood, to suffer it to mingle with a set of men, who, the most of them, have been led, through ignorance or resentment, to take up a way of life where they can live at the expence of the fools who admire them."

Donna Hortensia was sensibly piqued at these last words of my father's, which he pronounced with some degree of earnestness; however she made no reply, but gave him the hearing, with all that deference and respect which
every

every good wife owes her husband. But as I knew that nothing is so disagreeable to the women in general as to talk against their father-confessors, I endeavoured all in my power to give the conversation another turn : but Don Pedro would not be diverted from his purpose.

“ My son, said he, addressing himself to me, listen attentively to what I am about to say to you ; it is of more importance than you may perhaps imagine. Many a child curses his parents within the walls of a cloister, that might in the world have bestowed a thousand blessings on them, had they talked to him with the same sincerity and frankness that I am about to do to you.

“ It cannot be denied, continued he, that the monastic life, in its first institution, was the highest point of religious perfection. In my opinion it must require the efforts of a virtue more than human, and a superior portion of grace, to determine to abandon friends and relations, to follow Christ, to make their own wills and desires subservient to those of others, to renounce all worldly possessions,
and

and voluntarily to relinquish all the innocent pleasures and amusements of this life, to bury themselves in a holy retreat. And I cannot reflect, without admiration, on those pious recluses, who, in the first ages of the church, renounced the most brilliant fortunes, to spend their days in barren deserts, wholly taken up with the service of God and the care of their own souls. Such were the primitive Anchorites, and such those famous Lauri, where thousands of holy priests were seen disputing for the kingdom of heaven, and striving who should excel the other in suffering the greatest hardships and self-denial to merit a place there. The sweet odor they shed in those places, till then waste and uninhabited, drew to them an innumerable concourse of disciples; and, by a kind of divine metamorphosis, deserts were changed into towns, and towns became deserts.

“ What was then beheld in the East, has since been seen by our ancestors in Europe. The Benedicts, the Bernards, the Dominicks, the Francis’, and the Brunois, in imitation of these primitive hermits, made disciples, to whom they transferred

transferred a portion of that love, for penance and self-denial, with which they themselves were actuated. But these disciples, instead of living in deserts, as their holy founders had done, thought to improve their practice by settling in towns, where they might be more at hand to instruct men, and gather in a more copious harvest of souls for the Lord. But here their intention was more praise-worthy than prudent. Indeed the holiness of their own lives procured them a great number of disciples. The monasteries were crowded, and soon grew rich by the largesses of the faithful, who made an offer of all their possessions upon entering into them. But this very liberality was what first corrupted the priests; and pride, that incurable canker-worm of riches, soon crept in amongst them; every one now began to be desirous of being distinguished from the rest, in proportion to the fortune he had brought with him to the convent: distinctions soon introduced indolence, libertinism, and all the other vices, of which pride is, as it were, the stem. Hence arose the general corruption and depravity of manners

now

now found amongst the monks. We no longer see in them that antient spirit of humility which made them consider each other as brethren and the children of one common Parent. They now assume airs of grandeur and importance. The generals of the order despise the provincials, the provincials look down upon the guardians, the guardians ill-treat and oppress their inferiors, and the monks, because they are in orders, scarce deign to look upon their lay-brethren, but devote them to the most servile offices. This same pride is the cause of the cabals we see so frequent amongst them for acquiring the most lucrative posts in the monastery, at the expence of others. Hence their mutual jealousies, which lead them to do one another all the prejudice in their power. Hence those animosities and quarrels, which are too often attended with more fatal consequences. In a word, to this is owing the many scandalous excesses that make those who enter into the monastic state, find in it a hell, instead of the heavenly asylum they expected, where they might quietly work out their salvation. After this, Madam,

con-

continued he, turning to my mother, I leave you to judge, whether any parent, who has the least sense of religion, ought not rather to use all his endeavours to persuade his child from entering into such a state, than to hurry them into it rashly, as you seem inclinable to do?"

I listened to all this with the greatest attention, and thought my father's remarks very just and instructive. As for my mother, she retired to her own apartment, for fear of being obliged to hear a second part of this panegyric on the monks, with whom, if I may venture to use the expression, she was quite infatuated. My father and I were now left alone, to my no small satisfaction. He was in a cùe for talking; and, as I had not very frequent opportunities of receiving instruction from him, I was glad to embrace this that offered itself: and, to keep up the conversation, "I think, Sir, said I, you seem perfectly well acquainted with the monastic life, and yet I have never observed you to be much conversant with the brotherhood; this, I own, a little surprises me." "My dear son, replied he, 'tis for that very reason, that I have so little connections
with

with them : their acquaintance is fit only for narrow minds, or weak women. Accordingly, you will never see them associate with any but such, because they know very well that those are their surest marks."

He then proceeded to give me a relation of the many tricks and deceits practised by these holy cut-purses, which afforded me no small diversion : and I believe he would have continued the detail for a considerable time longer, had not the count d'Azevedo sent for him upon some particular business relating to the court, which he was obliged immediately to attend.

C H A P. IV.

Ranucio is solicited to turn monk.

A natural and diverting picture of the monastic life.

AFTER my father was gone, I went up to my chamber, with an intention to pass away an hour or two in reading; but I had scarce opened the book, when I saw a monk enter my room, who accosted me with a great deal of civility, congratulating me very cordially upon my recovery.

This was no other than the reverend father Pancraccio, one of my mother's spiritual directors; one I say, because she had as many as there were convents in Lisbon; but this gentleman was her principal favorite, one whom she never saw, but to confess some darling sin, or on matters of the greatest importance. He must certainly then be a man of great abilities you will say. On the contrary, I do not think there ever was a grosser or more material understanding than his: but, in amends for all this, he was as handsome a man, as you shall see
on

on a summer's day; and every one knows that is a qualification in a monk more than sufficient to make all the women run after him: accordingly the reverend Adonis in question was the factotum of all the ladies in Lisbon.

When I first saw him enter the room, I imagined he had some business with my mother, and, after desiring him to sit down, told him I would go and acquaint her of his being there. "There is no occasion for your giving yourself that trouble, Signior Ranucio, said he, I am just come from her, and my business at present is with you. Your good lady mother, continued he, has acquainted me with what passed during your illness, and the miraculous manner in which our holy patriarch wrought your recovery. I expected as much indeed from his powerful intercession, and the great trust your mother and yourself have always put in him. Permit me, however, young gentleman, to chide you a little in the saint's name, for your ingratitude to him. You must be sensible on what conditions you received your cure; and yet, to my great surprise, I hear that you refuse to ratify them. Do you not know,

that *Melius est non vovere quam* — et reliqua ; it is better not to make a vow at all, than to — and so on. You now belong to God and our holy order, in virtue of that which you made during your sickness. You are, as it were, mortgaged to us, and have no means left of evading your contract, without falling into apostacy ; a crime accounted and declared most enormous and deadly by all the inquisitions throughout the world.”

“ I am perfectly sensible, father, said I, that God is not to be mocked, and that we are bound to perform whatever we promise to him. But, is it to divert yourself with the ignorance of us people of the world, that you pretend to make me believe that I am answerable for a vow in which I had no sort of concern ? Is it likely that I should ever make a vow to enter into your order, when I cannot see a monk go by me but I am touch'd with the deepest compassion and — — — .” “ It is very certain, said father Pancracio, interrupting me, that our exterior is not the most tempting for young people, like you, in the bloom of youth, and at an age for pleasures. Our solemn
air,

air, the strict rules of our order, and the coarseness of our habit, are all things that make against us in the opinion of a young man who finds in the commerce of the world all the pleasures and conveniences of life : but let me tell you, son, things are not always to be taken by their looks. The world, with all its smiles and attractions, has also its thorns. Our life, on the contrary, all rigid and austere as it seems, has its pleasures and comforts. It is hard in appearance to quit one's family and possessions, to embrace the life of a mendicant : but you do not know, perhaps, that these mendicants are only so in name, and that they are possessed of more wealth, than the richest noblemen in the kingdom. These have only some few houses, or at most a little village or two belonging to them ; whereas we have numbers in every province throughout Europe, nay almost in every city, even as far distant as the new world itself. It is true, that at our admission into the order, we renounce all property ; but, under this specious veil of religious poverty, we riot on

the plenty of the land. That world, which we have bid adieu to, loads us with its favors, as if willing to shew how it is concerned for our having left it, and how desirous it is of alluring us back again at any price whatever. Pleasures, honours, riches, fortune, all smile upon us. Wherever we make our appearance, it seems as if our holy habit banished every thing likely to be the least disagreeable to us. The husband, fearful of offending us by an appearance of jealousy, retires, and leaves us alone with his wife; the young lover gives way, and quits his fair mistress to us; and parents especially hold us in the highest degree of veneration, think us all saints, and put their blooming daughters under our direction, placing more confidence in the habit we wear, than in the honor and integrity of the most virtuous man upon earth."——So much for cities and towns.

"The country affords us a new scene of delights: we are sure of being well received wherever we go; we have the uppermost seats at table, our plates are heaped with the choicest morsels,

morsels, and our palates regaled with the richest wines. We have also the best rooms, the finest linen, the softest beds, and in a word every thing that luxury or affluence can furnish, to indemnify us for the supposed austerity and mortification of our lives, which we however wisely confine to the habit alone."

I listened attentively to Pancraccio all the time he was speaking, who thought that what he had said would inspire me with a great taste for his way of life; not perceiving that it had quite the contrary effect, and was rather calculated to give me the highest dislike to it; he was going to proceed, when he was interrupted by my father's suddenly entering the room, who doubtless had not perceived the monk's sandals which he had left without side the door, and which with us are considered as two sacred barriers, which no mortal living dare infringe. The reverend father no sooner saw him enter, than he rose up and took his leave of me; but not till he had earnestly recommended to me to keep our conversation an inviolable secret from every one. Don Pedro, who had not forgot the dispute he had had with my mother in relation

lation to my pretended vow, presently suspected that the monk's visit to me was not without some design. Accordingly he questioned me on what had passed between us. I made no hesitation to obey him, and related the whole of our conversation to him from first to last; with which the old gentleman was not a little delighted.

C H A P. V.

Ranucio goes to his uncle's. A picture of the licenciado-conferences at his house. The manner of holding them in Portugal.

MY late interview with Pancracio had given my father some uneasiness, lest those reverend dragoons, by returning to the charge, might at length overcome my vigorous opposition, and remain masters of the field. In order, therefore, to secure me from any further attacks from that quarter, he made me a second proposal of going to pass some time at his brother's, my uncle Don Antonio. I accepted the proposal with joy, as the surest

surest means of freeing me from my mother's importunities, who was continually teasing me with vows and convents from morning to night. Accordingly I lost no time in setting out; and, after a journey of two days, I got to the licentiate's, who received me with all possible demonstrations of love and kindness.

He was a man about five feet high, by four in circumference, with a face irradiated, and set off by an infinite number of rubies of the true bacchanalian cast. His eyes were encircled with a border of the most lively carnation; his cheeks much resembled those usually given to Boreas, with a chin that fell down in triple folds on his broad breast. This is a pretty exact picture of my uncle's physiognomy. The rest of his person had nothing particular in it, if we except a pair of legs of an enormous size, yet not disproportioned to the bulk of the body they were to support.

At my arrival I found him at table tête à tête with a very pretty girl, his house-keeper, whom he told me was the daughter of an old maid-servant that lived with him. I paid a most religious belief to his assertion, tho' I could not help observing something in the girl's

features that seemed to me more than sufficient to justify the care and tenderness which the good licenciado seemed to express towards her.

As soon as he saw me enter the room, he raised himself from his seat not without some difficulty, and embraced me very heartily; then, after making me sit down by him, he ordered them to bring in the dishes that had been just carried from the table, supper being almost over. We had some excellent church wine, which we poured forth in large libations: I say we; for tho' my uncle had almost supped when I came in, yet, out of complaisance to me, he began to eat again like a man that had fasted the whole day. This amusement carried us deep into the night, the hearty licenciado never balking his glass, tho' he was to celebrate mass early the next morning; I imagine that the great desire he had to hear news about his family, had made him forget that little circumstance. I, on my part, satisfied him in all his questions, and at last we retired to rest in a pretty tolerable condition. I hastened to bed, where I lay and indulged myself till I was called up to mass, which my
good

good uncle performed without the least scruple from his over-night's affair.

When we returned home, we found the house pretty full of company. There were two ladies from Evora, one of whom was an acquaintance of my uncle's; they had been drawn into the country by the fine weather, and had brought with them a Spanish gentleman, with a design to surprize my uncle, and make him give them a dinner. He received them with all imaginable politeness, and an assurance that they could not have done him a more sensible pleasure. While he was employed in giving orders to his house-keeper, we saw coming in, one after another, six curates of neighbouring parishes: they were come it seems to assist at a conference which was to be held that day at Don Antonio's, who was their dean. As I had never heard mention of these sort of ceremonies, I enquired what they might be; and was told, that they were meetings appointed by the bishops to be held in every deanry, (at which the curates were all obliged to appear) where some points in divinity, morality, or case of conscience were to be discussed, when each person was to

give his opinion and solution. A copy of these were sent to the bishop, who caused them to be examined and registered by the faculty of divines, and then made public.

This then was the business that brought these gentlemen to my uncle's. They were all superbly mounted, and in nowise seemed to be affected with the severity of the times. As soon as they alighted, they saluted their reverend dean, who returned their compliments by setting before them an excellent ham, to keep them employed till dinner-time: they were not wanting to pay all due honours to this mark of their host's hospitality. The ladies, who did not expect to have met with so much company, were for taking their leaves, after having refreshed themselves: but these worthy gentlemen, backed by my uncle Don Antonio, pressed them to stay, in such a manner, that they could not well refuse: in short, they consented, and cards being called for, every one sat down, to pass the time away till dinner.

While they were thus devoutly occupied, a country fellow, whose wife lay at the point of death, came to desire the sacrament to be brought to her. Don Antonio,

Antonio, who had his hands full with giving orders in the kitchen, desired one of his reverend guests to leave off play for a moment, and officiate in his room. They all offered their services; but not one of them would stir, till the game was out; so that the poor woman had all imaginable leisure to die at her ease, which she accordingly did a few minutes before they got to the house. Our jovial curates, however, were not disconcerted by this trifling accident, but continued to play on, till word was brought that dinner was upon table.

No sooner was the summons given, than they all rose up with one accord, and quitting the field of gaming, repaired to that of mirth and festivity, which was held in a large and commodious dining-room set apart for these pious and truly worthy purposes. The height of profusion reigned in every article. The most delicate wines were served in large pitchers. Of these were six that for their size might have contained enough to have purified a whole synagogue. The table, which was covered with the most exquisite dishes, might dispute voluptuousness with those of our most sensual prelates.

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I could plainly perceive an air of serenity and delight diffused over the faces of our reverend guests, not inferior to that of a young court chaplain when he has just been presented to a fat benefice. After a very concise grace, they began the attack on the dishes. Never till that time had I known what eating was. The morsels followed each other in such quick succession, as left no room for the utterance of a single word; accordingly, during the first course, there was not four words spoken, except to call for drink.

Room being now made for the second course, the ladies, with whom these indigested meals do not so well agree, were the first to set a conversation on foot: it was a little serious at the beginning; but the floods of wine that passed round the table soon gave it a more lively turn. Those curates of the neighbourhood, who had had any affairs upon their hands, were now called over in review. "Poor Monte Horuevo, says one of the company, is devilish unlucky to have fallen into the hands of such a bishop as he has to deal with; he is for ever persecuting the poor man, and all forsooth because he happened to break in a little upon

upon the degrees of consanguinity in his correspondence with a female relation that lived in the house with him; as if, in our little country towns, we were obliged to be as good casuists, as those gentlemen who are always in the midst of universities and colleges."

"If he has been ill-treated, replied another, he may thank himself for it. Why did he not act as I did by our patriarch? The value of two reals would have done the business. My good man, to be sure, took it in his head to read me a lecture about a pretty niece that I have, what did I? I knew that he was violently enraptured with a new catechism which he had lately published, and which had been controverted almost in every point. Upon this I immediately bought it, and gave him my promise to make use of it in my parish. This did the job; and we are now the best friends in the world. As for his catechism, you know it is not worth a doit, though, poor soul, he has expended all the little wit he had upon it. But, what is that to me? the poor man is mad enough to want to pass for an author; I make my own use of his folly, and laugh in my sleeve at him in the mean time."

"Ay,

“Ay, now this is acting like a man of spirit, says a third. It is only fools that don’t know how to make an advantage of the folly and blunders of their superiors. *Answer a fool according to his folly*, says Solomon, and very justly too; for, in my opinion, he must be the prince of fools who would bring an old house upon his head for want of agreeing to any thing required by his bishop. But there is no persuading your wise gentry to this; and that has just been the ruin of Porto Rejo and his pupils, whose only crime was that of having more learning than those who condemned them for their ignorance.”

“To be sure, answered one of the youngest of the curates, it is the only way of acting. What the devil is their business to be eternally studying and writing? why cannot they do as we do? Burn all books and book-worms too, say I. Give me that excellent sentence of the wise man, *Vinum et mulieres non faciunt hæreses*: In women and wine there is no heresy. Here friends, said he, striking his glass against his next neighbour’s, *Date nobis de olio vestro et vinum bonum qui lætificat juventutem meam.*”

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The whole reverend band joined in commendation of this fine sally, and the toast went round. The conversation fell upon the intrigues and gallantries of some of the ladies of the best fashion in the neighbourhood; in the relation of which, these worthy gentlemen did not much consider the modesty of those present: for, as they themselves were accustomed to have their ears continually filled with such idle stuff, they naturally supposed ours to be the same.

C H A P. VI.

Arrival of Don Rodriguez d'Alcugna.

A picture of that gentleman. The manner in which he treats the licenciates.

WE were all in high spirits, and it might be truly said, that mirth and joy had taken possession of every breast, when a servant came and acquainted Don Antonio that there was a man without, who desired to speak with him. My uncle immediately enquired what sort of a man he was, and how he was dressed? "Shabby enough, Sir, said the

the servant ; he says his name is Don Ferdinand Rodriguez d'Alcugna." "Ho, ho ! said one of the licenciates, I guess what his business is now ; here, give him these two reals *, and God and St. James be his guides." We all thought him gone about his business, when, to our great surprise, we saw a person enter the room, who was an absolute stranger to all the company. The man was indeed meanly dressed, but had the most commanding and martial air with him that I had ever seen. He carried the certificate of his services about him in a wooden leg, which supplied the place of one he had lost in the wars. He began by paying his respects in a very polite manner to all the licenciates, who scarce deigned him so much as a nod of the head in return, which he took notice of, and taking a plate from the side-board, sat himself down at the table with as much ease and unconcern, as if he had been one of the family. All the company, and my uncle himself, astonished at the oddity of his behaviour, had their eyes fixed on him, not know-

* A real is a Spanish silver coin, in value about 5½ d. of our money.

ing at first what to think. “ I see, gentlemen, said he, drawing his chair close to the table, that you are as much surpris’d at my behaviour, as I was just now at yours. I must own it is pretty extraordinary on both sides ; but mine may at least serve to shew you that I am above the affronts of people to whom I am certain my company does honour. You would have spared them too, had you known how to distinguish your men ; and therefore I think it proper to learn you so to do, that you may not fall into the like mistake another time. Know then, gentlemen, that such as you now see me, it is not long since I fill’d one of the most considerable places at court. My attachment to my prince made me quit it, to go and serve in the army, and I distinguished myself by my services. But the mischances of war, and an unforeseen reverse of fortune, soon reduced me to the condition in which you at present behold me. All this I could have borne with tolerable patience ; but for the death of ten of my sons, whom I had sent into the service, and who were all unfortunately killed at the battle of Estremes, lately gained by our troops. As they were all my comfort, and that I hoped
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to see them one day become the support of my old age, having now lost them, I am returning to court, where I flatter myself I shall obtain from my royal master a reward for my own service, and those of ten boys. Having heard in my way that you gentlemen were the distributors of the charitable donations for the use of the poor, to a share in which my present condition gives me an undoubted right, I was very desirous to be an eye-witness of the manner in which you acquit yourselves of that pious office: and if I may judge by what I have seen, it must be allowed that you do it to a miracle; and that if every one, who stands in need of your assistance, meets with the same success that I have done this day, it would certainly be a great happiness to be in the list of your pensioners."

As biting as this speech was, the honest licenciates seemed to give little attention to it: on the contrary, finding that their new guest was disposed to treat them thus cavalierly, they thought they had no reason to confine themselves in the least on his account, and accordingly resumed their conversation, which began to grow more spirited

as the bottle went brisker round, till at length they came to double entendres, which they carried to such a length that they found it necessary to explain themselves in Latin, for fear of driving the ladies entirely out of the room. This noble topic brought them insensibly upon that of marriage, in which state they shewed themselves no small adepts. I have learnt since that this is the favourite theme of our priests and monks, who acquire a much greater degree of knowledge therein, than either in divinity or morality.

Having now exhausted their subject and their liquor, they desired the strange gentleman to give them some little story in his turn. "Come, Signor d'Alcugna, said one of the licenciates to him in a tone of raillery, you must pay your scot; it shall never be said that we have given you your dinner gratis; a man, who like you was so long conversant in a court, cannot but have learnt some very entertaining intrigues and droll amours to divert us with." "I should be furnished with many more, replied Don Rodriguez very gravely, had I ever read over some of your famous casuists: but I thank heaven, I have rather more modesty than
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to defile my mouth, or the ears of the company, with such impurity. A man who knows the world, and has the least good breeding, scorns to use such discourses, especially in the hearing of a sex that commands our respect and deference as much as it does our love and admiration : you will therefore excuse me, gentlemen, if I do not begin to do a thing which I never have done as yet. There is a variety of amusing subjects to enliven conversation, without running into absurdities or indecency. But if I must absolutely pay my scot, I will tell you a better story, which I heard one day at his majesty's levée, when I had the honor of attending at court. And tho' tales of this kind have their existence only in the imagination of him who invents them, yet they are not altogether without their use ; as I shall leave you to judge from that with which I am about to entertain you : the king declared himself greatly pleased with it, and I doubt not but you will find it both instructive and amusing.

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The D E V I L Sick :

A T A L E.

ONCE on a time Lucifer fell ill ; the alarm was presently spread through all hell ; and physicians, of which there is no want in that place, were sent for in abundance : but, as their skill is no greater in the lower world than in this, they fell short in their endeavours to cure his infernal majesty. Donna Proserpina his consort, who led but an indifferent kind of a life with him, was not very sorry at first for her husband's illness. The generality of women are pleased with mischief : however, when she saw him given over by the physicians, she began to feel her tenderness awakened, and never were seen stronger marks of conjugal grief than those which she exhibited on this occasion. Lord Lucifer, to his no small surprise and satisfaction, saw himself loaded with more caresses and expressions of kindness than he had received from her for upwards of five thousand six hundred and seventy-four years that they had lived together : in short, finding all the art and efforts
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of the physical tribe at a stand, she was resolved to try her own little skill towards the recovery of her grim paramour. But in the first place she asked him whether he was willing to submit to her prescriptions, and take such remedies as she should administer to him with her own hands?

Lucifer answered, that he was very willing to take whatever she should give him, provided she would only tell him what it was. “Well, says she, if that is the case, presenting in the instant a phial which she held in her hand to him, take this, my dear; it is the soul of a lawyer; there is not a more excellent purgative;” — “no, nor any thing so indigestible, said the devil, interrupting her in a pet. Have you forgot how I had like to have burst about six months ago, only by having just felt one, notwithstanding you had the precaution to dress it in the nicest manner?”

“Odso! I did not recollect that, replied Proserpine; but here is something more balsamic and easy of digestion; it is the soul of an exciseman; that, surely, will sit light upon your stomach.” “The soul of an exciseman! cried Lucifer, ah! away with it, away with it; don’t you know

know that the souls of those gentry are used to fatten on the substance and marrow of the people ; by my fork, if I was to swallow it, it would suck the very marrow out of my bones.

Well then, continued Proserpine, you surely will not refuse this ; here is the soul of an overgrown monk, who never lived upon any thing but partridges and white bread, Ah ! for shame, replied his diabolical majesty, are you making game of me ? am I in a fit condition to digest such kind of food ? his grease would rise so upon my stomach that I should vomit my heart out ; ah ! I am ready to bring it up already at the bare mention of such a mess.

Alack-a-day, said she, I see plainly now, that your disorder has taken away your taste, for you was wont to feast upon them sometimes ; but since nothing but dainties will go down with you, I think we must endeavour to get them for you. Let me see you swallow this soul of a young nun, who was never yet tempted by her director. And where the plague will you find that, replied Lucifer ? you may as well look for a bishop that never sold a presentation, or a divine that practises what he preaches.


Believe me, my dear half, it will be labour lost to look for any thing of that kind; so you may e'en spare yourself the pains: I have traversed the world more than ever you did, and I am sure I could never meet with either the one or the other of them in all my flights.

Well, but one may at least get you the soul of a confessor to a young prince, that is tit-bit in great esteem in the upper world, and may possibly do you service. Had that been the case, said Satan, I should never have been ill; for I breakfast upon them every morning. No, no; nothing of that kind will do my business. There is but one thing I have any extraordinary desire to. I have heard that nature frequently finds a cure to the disorder in the particular appetite or desire of the patients. Now I have a strong pre-sentiment that what I so much long for will perfectly recover me; but the difficulty is where to find it.

Oh my dear sweet devil of an husband, cry'd Proserpine, throwing her arms round his neck, is there any thing too difficult, when it concerns the life and health of those we love? Only speak, and rest assured that I will leave nothing undone to deliver you from this deplorable

ble situation. Must heaven and earth be overturned, the elements confounded, and all things reduced to their primitive chaos? I will let loose all the powers of hell, and put them into action, but what you desire shall be found and got for you. Softly, good wife, replied the infernal monarch, there is no occasion for all this bustle; besides, if you was to set all the devils in my kingdom upon the hunt, I question much whether they would be able to find the thing in question so soon as you imagine, and yet it is not absolutely impossible to be found; but it is so very scarce, that one may as good as say it is impossible: and pray, what may this same scarce commodity be, said Proserpine? for pity's sake, my jewel, suffer me not to languish thus in uncertainty. Why then, if you must have it, said Lucifer, I long for the souls of six country curates, all chaste, sober, and charitable, boil'd down to a strong jelly; and I am certain that this, and this alone, would restore me to life and health."

When Don Rodriguez came to this part of his story, he did not stay to finish the rest, but rising from table, he took his hat, and making a very low bow to

the company, he withdrew, leaving our guests confounded and speechless. I could not forbear admiring the ingenious method he had taken of telling them their own : ay, said I to myself, this  paying his scot with a vengeance.

The soup, with which Don Rodriguez had just regaled them, sat so heavy on their stomachs, that I verily believe it would have suffocated them, had they not taken the precaution to dilute it with frequent bumpers : but, nevertheless, it was continually rising uppermost. A pretty fellow this with his sick devil, said one of the curates ; what ? he wants a curate or two like us to cure him with a pox to him ! By St. Jago, said another, if her devilship of a wife of his was in such a hurry to have him cured, she should have given him a few drops of the wonderful elixir lately sent us from Papimania, the virtues of which are so great, that I have seen several persons, after taking a dose or two, swallow the largest sine-cures, without ever finding their stomachs the least hurt by them.

This speech set the whole room in a loud laugh ; I presently imagined that there must be some mystery in the last words, and turning to one of the licen-
tiates

tiates who sat next to me, I begged him to explain the meaning of them, which he did in the manner as will be seen in the following chapter.

C H A P. VII.

Which is as curious, and interesting,
as any in this book.

YOU must know, Seignor Ranucio, said the licentiate to me, that it is now between eighteen and twenty years since the prince Albanus had a son by Donna Inés Loyolina, to whom he had been privately married before he ascended the throne of Papimania. The prince would never have been drawn into this alliance, but through the persuasions of those who were continually extolling the immense riches and credit of this lady; and in fact, he no sooner beheld the unhappy fruit of his clandestine marriage, than he resolved to have it dissolved before the grandees of his kingdom or his subjects should come to know it.

This step, how violent soever in appearance, was yet absolutely necessary. It will be sufficient to his justification,

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that we give a picture of the son he had by this ambitious princess: It was a monster, who, with a most hideous head, had fifty arms, and as many legs, all of different lengths. This monstrous assemblage of parts terminated in a long tail full of the most subtle poison; and, what rendered it still more hideous and dreadful was, that this tail cast forth thunders and lightnings against every one who had not the complaisance to think it very beautiful and fine.

So hideous a monster ought certainly to have been stifled as soon as born, and doubtless this is what prince Albanus would have had done, could he have torn it from the arms of its mother. But, from the instant of its birth, Inés made it the object of all her tenderness and delight. She even carried her blind love for it so far, as to endeavour, notwithstanding its being such a monster, to get it declared legitimate, and place it on the throne of its father. Such were her views, when she was informed that the prince her husband was, as I have already told you, about to rid himself of mother and child together. You will easily conceive what must have been her surprise, or rather rage, at this dreadful news.

news. She swore, she threatened, she raged, and, in order to intimidate her husband, she brought all her friends and relations upon his back, which were in great numbers, and very powerful. They had the insolence to threaten to expel him from the throne, and would most certainly have been as good as their words, had not the prince, to make the best of this ticklish situation, had recourse to a little policy, and promised to do just as they would have him: in consequence of this, he convoked an assembly of all the principal men of his kingdom.

Tho' his pride was hurt by this concession, yet he comforted himself with the hopes that his nobles would favour his views, and enable him to dissolve his marriage. His hopes were not without foundation; but the princess, who was strictly upon her guard, had the precaution to gain over his chancellor Molinés, who put a stop to the design. This artful minister made a speech to the nobles, assembled to the number of seventy-two, in which he set before them the many advantages and vast possessions that would accrue to the state by passing this act of ligitimation, which he said would

at once put an end to all feuds and animosities, and firmly secure the public tranquillity. He then expatiated courtier-like on the virtues of both father and son, and from thence launched out in praise of those who were their counsellors and assistants in the arduous task of governing. In a word, he knew so well how to work upon their dispositions, that nothing remained but for the young prince to appear and receive the suffrages of the whole assembly in his favour.

Inés, who was delighted to a degree of transport with this favourable beginning, ruined all again by her precipitation. The instant she received the news of the favourable disposition of the states, she hastened to conduct her son to the great hall appointed for his coronation. But, what was her grief and disappointment, when, instead of the general homage, which she expected to see paid him, she heard herself loaded with a thousand curses. The nobles, terrified at his horrid figure, not only were unable to bear the sight of him, but to a man fled out of the palace, deaf to all the remonstrances and fine promises of the chancellor Molinés, and ran to
hide

hide themselves, every one in his vineyard.

This accident, which the princess might easily have foreseen, had she not been wholly blinded by partiality, did not however make her abandon her project. She resolved to make a second attempt as soon as the nobles might be supposed to have recovered a little from their fright: but the apprehension of meeting with another rebuff of the same kind with the former, made her a little more wary in her proceedings: she consulted her relations what steps would be most proper for her to take in order to succeed. They were unanimous in advising her to address herself to one Tellerio, who was as I may say the factotum of the whole family. He was an old Gaul deeply versed in magic and necromancy; his abilities had been experienced by almost every one present on some occasion or another: in fact, he was a person of great skill in his profession. To give you some slight idea of his capacity, I shall content myself with saying, that this old druid had some time before bewitched one of the greatest empires in the world in such a manner, as to make them adore pictures and puppets in the

room of the true God: and, what is still more astonishing, he had even found the secret to fascinate the eyes of prince Albanus himself so as to make him believe that this impious and ridiculous worship had nothing in it but what was consonant and agreeable to true religion.

Such was the worthy personage to whom Inés addressed herself for assistance. As the installation of her only son was a project in which the glory and reputation of her whole family were concerned, the old druid, who had the honor of being related to them, resolved to use his utmost efforts to insure its success.

In this view he invoked all the powers of earth and hell to his assistance, and with their help composed a diabolical elixir, which he sent to the princess by one of his servants. Inés received it with all imaginable joy; and, to reward the services of the master in the person of the servant, she made him a rich present; (a happy presage of what she was one day to do for those who entered heartily and zealously into her interest.

And now, the better to conceal her design, she, with the advice of Tellerio, prepared a magnificent entertainment;

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to which she invited, in the prince her husband's name, all the nobles of the court. - The reason of this high mark of the royal favor was industriously concealed from them; however, the major part guess'd at the real cause: accordingly, out of seventy-two, who were the first time at the palace, there were not passing four or five that now made their appearance: these were some time before they were introduced to the prince, as the rest were every moment expected: but they not coming, the few who attended were ushered into the great hall prepared for the feast, where they were received with abundance of carresses by Inés and the prince.

Nothing was talked of but mirth and jollity, and not a word transpired of the real motive of their invitation, till the princess perceived the elixir, which she had mixed with their wine, had begun to operate; and, indeed, never did charm produce so sudden and so extraordinary an effect: for, besides depriving them of all knowledge and reason, it utterly fascinated their sight, and made them behold the most admirable and surprising things.

What

What struck them the most, was the wonderful metamorphosis they beheld in the person of prince Albanus himself, who now appeared quite altered to their eyes. A god-like and majestic air had taken possession of his former bald and wrinkled front: he seemed to them now a less mortal, than some god ready to deliver his oracles, which they only waited to hear, to receive them with the most profound respect. On each side of him they beheld two tables, on which were spread the rewards and punishments that awaited them, according to the party they embraced. One was covered with commissions and patents for honors, dignities, and places of the highest trust and profit: in a word, with every thing capable of flattering the vanity and ambition of man. Round this table was the following Latin inscription, engraven in letters of gold, *Hæc omnia tibi dabo, si cadens adoraveris me* *. The other was spread with orders for banishment, and commitments to the galleys, jails, and whipping-posts, with this legend, *Hæc vos pœna manet* †. As much as these objects

* All this will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

† This is the punishment prepared for you.

struck

struck them with dread and terror, so much did the sight of the others allure their attention and flatter their desire of gain. Inés soon perceived the effects produced in their minds, from whence she formed a favorable presage of her scheme, and immediately sent for her son.

The guests were still wrapp'd up in ecstasy, when the young prince entered the hall, accompanied by a dozen of his relations on the mother's side: and now the charm began to work its principal effect. This monster, at whose sight they had so lately fled with the utmost trepidation, no longer appeared so hideous and frightful, no longer inspired them with dread and horror: on the contrary, they embraced his knees, offered him a thousand carresses, and humbly entreated him to forgive the injury they had done him, in not paying him at first those honors which were his due, and declared themselves ready to make him reparation, not only by instantly acknowledging him as sole heir to the crown, but by falling down and worshipping him, if he thought proper to desire it. Inés thanked them for their generosity; and, to give them a present mark
of

of her gratitude and acknowledgment, she made the prince her husband confer a principality on each of them, with an assurance of its being only an earnest of future favors which should be heap'd on them in proportion to their zeal and attachment to her son.

They now proceeded to the legitimization of this monstrous offspring, which, after a short preamble, passed by the unanimous votes of all present. He was then lead to the throne, which he mounted, and the ceremony concluded with prayers for the father and mother, and the worthy offspring of such an illustrious pair.

And now the news of this installation soon spread abroad. The four lords, who had tasted so largely of the prince's bounty, were the first to publish it with the most lavish encomiums on the great perfections of his son, whom they extolled as the most amiable and accomplished young prince that ever graced a royal union; he was a master-piece of nature, a gift from heaven: nay, they carried their abominable flattery so far, as to stile him THE ONLY SON OF A GOD, whom it was in the highest degree impious not to adore.

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The rest of the nobles who had formed a very different idea of him at the first sight, laughed at their brethren for fools and madmen, and indeed not without some shew of reason : but when they came to reflect that prince Albanus, who had always shewn himself a person of sense and discernment, would not certainly have bestowed these governments and principalities upon them, which were some of the strongest holds in his kingdom, had he perceived any thing like madness or folly in them : they suspended farther judgment for a while, determined to convince themselves by a second visit, if all the wonders told them of the young prince had any foundation in truth.

To say the truth, they were not so much incited to take this step thro' curiosity, as from a jealous apprehension of seeing their colleagues become more powerful than themselves. In short, a desire of having an equal share of honors and preferments was indeed the true and only motive that drew them once more to the royal palace. Inés, who made no doubt that the fame of her liberality would at length bring them to
her

her lure, determined at first to refuse them admittance: but her relations and counsellors having represented to her that she was still in need of the voices of these nobles, she made use of her customary policy, and gave them if possible a kinder reception than she had done to the others. Scarce had they tasted the enchanted cup, and received one a principality, another a government, and others a good warm pension, than they saw with quite different eyes, and ratified all that had been done by their colleagues.

Had Inés known how to govern her ambition, she would have been satisfied with these suffrages; but she was resolved to have those of the magistrates and the people likewise. With this design she drew a promise from the nobles, that they would assist her with all their credit and authority in this great affair: this they bound themselves to by an oath. And still the better to insure success, she caused her famous magician to make a prodigious quantity of the elixir, of which she gave numberless parcels to her relations and the chosen messengers of her will, who, like so many mountebanks,

banks, went up and down distributing them thro' all the towns and cities in the kingdom of Papimania.

Had she even stopt there, she might probably have succeeded: but her excessive fondness for her son proved the ruin of them both. As self-love always makes us see beauties in our own offspring, let them be never so deformed; the infatuated princess thought nothing worthy to be set in competition with her brat, whom she doated on to the most extravagant degree. She took it in her head then, agreeable to the weakness common to most mothers, that every one must necessarily look upon her child with the same eyes as she herself did: and, in this fond persuasion, she caused a number of pictures of him to be drawn, which she sent into all the provinces of the kingdom.

No sooner were the copies of this monstrous original (which however they had most strangely flattered) made public, than it caused a general insurrection throughout the kingdom. The relations and friends of Inés, who had undertaken to get him acknowledged as heir to the crown, in vain endeavoured to palliate the horror and deformity of his figure;
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it was time and labor lost. The elixir, on which they so much depended, had lost the greatest part of its virtue by the way, and was no longer of any service to them : as little availed the blue hats, green scarfs, and red band-strings, with all the rest of the knicknackery which Inés had procured for them of her husband prince Albanus. The people who are unacquainted with ambition, were not to be imposed upon by all this tinsel ; and all that the agents of Inés could do, was to bring over some few of the inferior magistrates, who suffered themselves to be caught with a rattle : but they soon were the dupes of their own folly ; for the violent proceedings of Loyolina and her relations had now stirred the nation to such a pitch, that they threw off all restraint, and of their own authority disannulled all that had been done in favor of the monstrous prince, whose person they seized, and sent him in chains to the general assembly of the nation, to do with him as should seem good in their eyes.

C H A P. VIII.

A battle between the licentiates, occasioned by the foregoing story.
The adventures of a marriage-feast.

DURING this relation, which I listened to with the greatest pleasure, I observed that it had a very different effect on one of the company, named Castilmoro, a licentiate, who addressing himself to my historian, master Curate, said he as soon as he had finished, methinks you give your tongue strange liberties; it is plain that the wine has made you forget the respect you owe to the character of prince Albanus. I am very sensible, replied my licentiate, that his character of prince demands respect at my hands; but you know very well that the kingdom of Papimania is not hereditary; therefore no one is obliged to extend the respect and homage all owe the prince, to his children, especially when not acknowledged as such by the great assembly of the nation, and that they are such monsters as him we have

have been mentioning. God preserve me! cried Castilmoro, just beside himself with rage, can any one, without the most horrid impiety, speak in this manner of the most lovely and accomplished of all princes! of a prince, who, next to God and his blessed mother, merits all our adoration! a prince worthy to have altars raised—— In China perhaps, said the other, interrupting him with a sneer, where he would serve excellently well to add one to the number of their pagods, for one would swear he had been formed exactly upon their model.

This repartee pleas'd the rest of the company as much as it did me: nevertheless I could observe that some of our guests were a little scandalized at the freedom of it, which made me conclude that they were divided in their opinions about this son of Albanus. I was more fully convinced of this when I saw the whole company, which before had been as one person, divide themselves into two different parties, and begin to dispute with great vehemence.

As the wine had put their spirits into a ferment, the dispute could not fail of growing warm. They began by arguments, from thence proceeded to abuse,
and

and finally to blows. The table, with all its apparatus, were the first things that presented themselves as arms to the combatants; but, when every thing of this kind was destroyed and broken, they fell to fifty-cuffs, collaring, buffeting, and overturning one another with such fury, that I expected every moment to see some of them knock'd on the head.

I hardly knew whether to laugh or cry at such a tragi-comical spectacle. Is it possible, said I to myself, that churchmen should be fools enough to cut one another's throats about such extravagancies? Where is their understanding? where their charity and brotherly love? The ladies had taken flight at the beginning of the onset; so that I was left alone with the Spanish gentleman, who suffered not the least discomposure of muscles from this farce, nor departed from his natural gravity and phlegmatic deportment.

Don Antonio, my uncle, who had very wisely taken care to place himself out of reach of the blows that were so liberally dealt about, kept crying out to us to part them, and put an end to the disturbance: but we were not quite such fools to undertake any thing of the kind,
but

but left them at full liberty to deal with each other as they thought proper. They were still hard at it, and there seemed little probability of the fray being soon ended, when on a sudden we heard the sound of musical instruments playing a very brisk symphony. I immediately left the room, shutting the door after me, and went to see to whom we were indebted for this serenade. It was the young lord of the manor, who was conducting home, with musick and great rejoicing, a couple whom Don Antonio had married the day before : and, as he was prevented by his company coming in from being present at the marriage-feast, which was held at the manor-house, the 'squire, and the whole wedding-band had come to give him part of the entertainment. I conducted them all into the great hall, and began dancing with them myself, to give our champions time to put themselves a little to rights after their combat. However, I need not have been so very solicitous about them ; for no sooner did they hear the sound of the music, than the dæmon of madness, which had taken possession of them, quitted them ; and, separating of their own accord, they got each upon
his

his horse, and, after thanking my uncle for his kind reception, made the best of their way homewards.

Thus finished the conference at which these gentlemen had been called to assist. As I doubt much whether it may find a place among those which our patriarch is shortly going to make public, I was willing to give it one in these memoirs, that he may one day or another be informed of it.

And now the ladies, who had been scared by the noise and thunder of the war, returned and joined us; they danced with the gentlemen in their turns, till the evening which now came on apace, gave them a hint that it was time to retire.

The whole company were in like manner preparing to leave us, when an accident happened that detained them for some time longer; and which, for its singularity, deserves a place in these memoirs.

The reader will remember, that, among the guests that came to our house in the morning, I mentioned a Spanish gentleman, that accompanied two ladies, one of whom was not only very handsome, but of a most engaging
sweetness

sweetness of carriage. This gentleman seeing the company about to retire, proposed to close the ball himself. I had remarked, that, while the rest were dancing, he every now and then cast his eyes on the bride, and fetched a deep sigh, while the tears stole down his cheeks: such a behaviour in an assembly, where every thing breathed mirth and jollity, appeared to me very extraordinary, and I could not help thinking that something more than common must pass within him to occasion this. The sequel will shew I was not mistaken.

He had offered, as I said before, to close the ball, and gave his hand to the bride, who danced with him. As the company had just been taking a little refreshment, she had not time to put on her gloves, but danced that once without them. This was not observed at first by the gentleman, whose eyes and attention were otherwise employed. But when she came to give him her hand towards the end of the dance, he was suddenly struck with the lustre of a large diamond which she wore on her finger. He very politely begged her to favour him with a nearer sight of it, which she

as genteelly complied with. But what was his surprize, when he saw his own name and his wife's on it in a cypher! "Madam, said he, looking earnestly at her, will it not be a piece of presumption in me to ask you of whom you had this ring? I think to have seen it in other hands——Ah! what do I behold! You seem troubled! Is it possible, Madam, that you should be acquainted with my lovely Sophia? This ring she once received from my hands, as a pledge of my faith and constancy; it is still dear to me, tho' above six years are past since death tore the beauteous owner from my arms."

The lady, overwhelm'd with surprize and trouble, made no answer to these words, but by a flood of tears, which greatly astonished the whole company. "Good God! Madam, cry'd the gentleman eagerly, do you answer me only by your tears? Heavens! how they charm me! and yet, perhaps, they may too soon plunge me in the most cruel dilemma! No matter! nothing can be comparable to the joy of finding you again, after having shed so many tears for your supposed death: Yes, my dearest Sophia,

in me you see your tender, your faithful Frontiera!"

At these words he embraced the lady in the tenderest manner, who immediately fainted away in his arms. The bridegroom surprized at what he saw, and stung with resentment at the liberty the gentleman had taken with his wife, flew to him with his sword in his hand, to punish him for his boldness, and would actually have run him thro', had he not been withheld by the company, who insisted upon knowing the occasion of the quarrel. The strange gentleman immediately satisfied their curiosity by relating his history, such as it is found in the following chapter.

CHAP.

C H A P. IX.

The involuntary Exchange.

A NOVEL.

DON Balthazar de Frontiera, my father, seeing himself encumbered with a great number of children, resolved that we should each of us embrace some sort of employ. He sent me to study fortification : after which I took up arms, as a profession the most suitable to my birth. I was only eighteen years of age when I entered into the service of the king of Spain ; and the general peace which then reigned all over Europe, leaving me no room to expect advancement, I went to Portugal, in hopes of succeeding better there. It was there that I first saw and loved the adorable Sophia ; but it cost me three years of continual assiduities, before I could compass the end of my wishes : at last our hands were joined ; but the hour of our union might be said to be that of the division of our two countries. The Portugueze having thrown off the Spanish yoke, and put themselves under the

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dominion

dominion of the duke of Braganza, the flames of war were immediately lighted up between the two kingdoms. The engagements I had so newly entered into in Portugal, did not however hinder me from remaining faithful to my prince, and I had an opportunity of distinguishing myself in several actions; the particulars of which, I shall not take up your time in relating: it is sufficient to inform you, that the king overpaid my services, by creating me brigadier of his forces, and knight of the order of St. James.

While my services were thus rewarded by the court of Madrid, the court of Lisbon was preparing for me, without knowing it, the most cruel revenge. John of Braganza having, notwithstanding all we could do, made himself master of Portugal, issued an edict, commanding all Spaniards to depart forthwith from his territories. The order was absolute: I therefore took shipping for Cadiz, where, as had been before agreed upon between us, my wife was to join me the following spring.

Nothing could be more agreeable than the first part of our navigation; but when we began to think of landing, having already descried the town, we
were

were on a sudden overtaken by a furious tempest, which cast us on the coast of Africa, after making us experience all the horrors of the sea. A calm, which succeeded this dreadful storm, somewhat reviv'd our drooping hearts. We set the sails again, and steer'd for the coast of Spain: but scarcely had we cleared the Barbary coast, when we found ourselves in the middle of two Moorish galliasses, one of which belonged to Tangier, the other to Sallé, who attacked us with great fury. Notwithstanding our inequality, we made the most vigorous resistance, and should in all probability have cleared ourselves of the enemy, had we not unfortunately fallen short of powder. In this condition we were obliged to strike; and the Barbarians, irritated by the resistance we had made, boarded us in shoals, with their sabres in their hands, and seemed determined to sacrifice us all to their vengeance, had not he, who was their commander, remonstrated to them, that such an action would infallibly ruin them with the king at their return: upon this they contented themselves with loading us with chains, and in that condition carried us into Sallé.

Muley Ismael, who was at time the reigning prince, had made a law, by which he appropriated all the Christian slaves that should fall into the hands of his subjects, to his own use, instead of being exposed in the public market-place to sale. In virtue of this order, we were conducted to Mequinez, the usual residence of that prince, where we were put amongst his other slaves, to the number of 8 or 900, of all the different nations of Christendom.

When the overseer of the slaves came to take a review of us, and destine us to our several employments, he ask'd me, of which profession I was? I reply'd, I had been bred up to the use of arms, and knew nothing of any other employment." " So much the worse, said he sternly; it is a villainous science, and fit only such lazy wretches as yourself; but we shall soon teach you to work, I'll warrant you. Here, said he to one of his officers, take this gentleman away to the quarries, and see him employed there for the service of our puissant monarch: as for the rest of his fellow-prisoners, let them be sent to the lime-pits, we'll find work for them there."

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This speech of the overseer's was like a thunderstroke to me : I flung myself at his feet, and, embracing his knees, conjured him, with a flood of tears, to take compassion on me, and change my punishment to any other. But I was soon forced to rise by a volley of blows, which I received with a bull's pizzle over my shoulders from one of our conductors.

The reason of this sharp treatment I afterwards found to be, that, with these barbarians, it is not permitted any one so much as to ask for a mitigation of his punishment, till he has undergone several years of the servitude to which he is condemn'd. I was therefore obliged to submit to my fate, and was sent to work in the stone-quarries.

It would be needless to acquaint you with the particulars of my sufferings during the space of six years that I continued in this miserable situation ; they were such as you will easily figure to yourselves, from being shut up in subterraneous dungeons, where the cheering rays of the sun can never penetrate, and destin'd to the most painful and laborious employs ; in which, if, thro' a natural delicacy of constitution, you are at any time remiss, it only furnishes these

barbarians with a pretence to use you in the most cruel manner. They would hardly give me breathing time, and were perpetually upbraiding me, as if it had been a crime, with the life of ease and pleasure I had lead before I fell into their hands. In short, they carried their cruelties so far, that at length I was unable to support them any longer, and fell into a disorder, which brought me to death's door. I was waiting with impatience for the coming of death, as the only remedy to my sufferings, when it pleased Heaven to deliver me by a kind of miracle: ——— It was as follows.

Muley Ismael, being come one day to see the works in which we were employed, thought fit at the same time to make a review of his slaves. They were accordingly brought all before him, excepting those only who were sick. The number of these latter was so great, that that the king express'd his astonishment at it, and resolved to make us a visit, in order to inform himself of the truth. The sight of this prince, who passed for a prodigy of cruelty, spread instant terror amongst us all: and not without reason; for we had frequently been told; that,

that, on a visit of this kind, he has with his own hand cut off the heads of such as were thought past recovery: this he used to say, was “to spare them longer sufferings.” Every one therefore, at his first appearance amongst us, imagined, that this would be his own fate: for my part, I wished for it, as far as it is permitted a Christian to wish for an end to his sufferings. But Providence, who had disposed of me otherwise, wrought a sudden change in this monarch’s heart. He was moved with compassion at the condition he saw us in, and commanded that we should be better treated for the time to come.

This act of generosity, so unexpected from a prince of his character, made such an impression on me, that notwithstanding the weak condition I was in, I could not forbear sending up my prayers to Heaven for his prosperity. He overheard me, and was so taken with my gratitude, that he stopt a while to talk with me. He put several questions to me, and, amongst the rest, of my birth, and how I came to fall into slavery? to which I answered, “Great King, you see before you a Spanish gentleman, taken by your corsairs as he was about

to return to his own country. Six years are now past since I have groaned in the hardest and most cruel captivity : but happily now, I am in momentary expectation of death, to put an end to it."

"It was never my intention, replied the prince, with a gracious look, that any who belong to me should be treated with such severity, much less persons of your rank : but take courage, be assured I will soften your captivity." He then turned about and gave orders to his people, that I should be taken particular care of, and be brought up to Mequinez as soon as ever I was in a condition to travel.

The joy that I conceived at this fortunate event, joined to the great care that was taken of my recovery, presently restored me to my health ; and, as soon as it was proper to remove me, I was sent up to court, where they put me among the slaves who are particularly devoted to the service of the palace. The change of air and good living in this place put the finishing hand to my cure. As soon as I found my health perfectly re-established, I offered myself to perform the duties of my office : but Abdalla Ben-Aicha, who was steward of the

the household, ordered, that I should have a month's longer respite, till I had effectually recovered my strength.

I made use of this indulgence to walk about the gardens, and in the king's apartments, where I used frequently to spend whole afternoons at a time, as both the one and the other were at that time repairing, which took off all difficulty of access. The company of the other slaves, who were all busied in different occupations, and the relations they used to make me of their several adventures, served to amuse me during the time I led this idle life.

One day that the king came to see them work, I happened to be in the gardens looking at the masons, who had just been uncovering the palace, and were preparing to pull it down. I was surpris'd when I saw what they were about, as the building appeared to me quite new and good. I was about to enquire into the reason of this proceeding, when the prince spy'd me out, and taking me for one of the workmen, sent an officer to fetch me to him. As soon as I drew near, he knew me again. "Are you there, Andalouzi, said he, (for that was the name which Aliben

Abdalla, the overseer of the slaves, had given me when I was first taken) I am glad to see you so well recovered: but what is it you are looking at so earnestly?" "My Lord, reply'd I, I was admiring the beauty of this building, and was considering what might be the reasons that engage your majesty to demolish it?" None but what are very natural, reply'd the king. The foundation of this palace, tho' so lately built, already threatens it with ruin: therefore, the only way to prevent the accidents that might happen, is to pull it down, and build another." "Your majesty's wisdom and discernment, said I, shew themselves in all that you do: but, might not a method be found to repair the foundation, and yet preserve the rest of so noble a pile, which must cost your majesty such immense sums to rebuild?" "Why, this is what I consulted my architects upon, replied the king; and they all declared it to be a thing impossible. But can't thou fall upon a way of bringing about what thou hast proposed?" "Nothing is so easy, august monarch, answered I; and it is owing to the little commerce your people have with us Europeans, that make your architects

architects ignorant of a thing that is daily practiced amongst us." "Is it so, said the prince? why then, I charge thee with the execution of it, and place thee over them: and, to encourage thee to exert thy abilities, I begin by giving thee thy liberty; but on condition that thou shalt not leave me so long as I stand in need of thy assistance." In saying this, he ordered Abdalla Ben-Aicha to take off the little chain which I wore, and to see me dressed in a manner suitable to my new dignity.

It is easy to conceive the joy I felt at this happy change in my circumstances; which, however, was a little clouded, by reflecting how long it must be e'er I could hope to revisit my native country, and see my dearest Sophia. But as mankind are ever apt to be flattered by prosperity, I promised myself, that I would soon be able to satisfy the king, and obtain permission to return to Europe. In this view, I set myself to work the very next day, and began by collecting all the strongest pieces of timber that could be found. These I placed under the first storey of the building, to support it; and then had the old foundation

foundation demolished, and one built entirely new.

Muley Ismael, who had a great passion for building, and was extremely curious in every thing that related to architecture, seemed greatly to admire the ingenuity of this contrivance, and declared that he had not the least doubt that I should make good all that I had promised. In effect, I used such diligence in it, that, at the end of three months, the whole was compleat. The prince expressed the greatest satisfaction at the zeal I had shewn for his service; I thought this a favourable opportunity to solicit my return: but the very zeal he had so praised, proved the means of retaining me longer in captivity. “What! answered he smiling, would you quit me now that you have just shewn what you are capable of doing, and what assistance I may expect from you? No, no; it is too soon to lose you yet; and it is but just that you should pay for your ransom by a little complaisance. Listen to what I am going to say. I have for some time had a mind to build a new seraglio for my women: I am very well pleased that I have deferred the execution of it for
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some time, since you seem to me the most proper person I could have found to manage the work. Gratify me in this one particular; and, in return, I promise thee that thou shalt have full liberty to return home. I from this moment grant thee my permission."

I was not a little mortified to find my deliverance still deferred. But, as the words of kings are sacred, I flattered myself that my stay would not be very long, and that Muley Ismael would perform his promise, as soon as I had acquitted myself of this new commission. On this consideration, I begged that I might be directly conducted to the spot which he had pitched upon for the building. This was absolutely necessary: but I should have been very careful how I had made this request, had I known to what it would expose me. I was not a little surpris'd, when the next day he conducted me himself to the old seraglio. It is true, they had taken care to shut up all the women in their apartments, and that we visited no other places but the gardens, which were raised on terrasses, and form'd a kind of amphitheatre, very beautiful to the sight. I observed that the palace, which

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was very-old, and built in the Gothic manner, was seated in a bottom, and must consequently be very unhealthy. "Thou art in the right, Andalouzi, replied the prince; and it is for this very reason, that I intend to have it rebuilt: but I am at a loss where to place it, as I would willingly preserve these gardens, which, as thou seest, are tolerably handsome." "To answer this purpose, replied I, your majesty may build it upon that neighbouring hill, from whence the prospect will be delightfully extensive, and the air wholesome and pure." "That is an excellent thought, replied the king; I now find thou hast a great deal of knowledge and taste: go set about measuring the ground, and draw up a plan, and it shall be put into execution immediately." After giving me these orders, he left me, and retired into the women's apartments.

In a few days I had my plan ready for his inspection: he approved of it greatly, and immediately ordered his treasurers to furnish me with whatever money I stood in need of.

His orders were punctually obeyed, and I set about my work; in which, partly by the hopes of the liberty he had promised me,

me, partly the assistance of an immense number of workmen, and the liberal distributions the king ordered to be made amongst them, added to the zeal his presence inspired them with, scarce a day passing without his spending some hours in overlooking them; at the end of three months I had the building rais'd near 30 feet high, and upon a level with the wall of the gardens belonging to the old seraglio.

I had not as yet met with any adventures of gallantry, which was an extraordinary thing in a place where the very air breathes amorous infection; at which, tho' I was surpris'd, I was at the same time pleas'd: but there is no shunning destiny. One day, when I was mounted upon a scaffold, to inspect some part of the work, while the labourers were gone to their dinners, I saw a large stone fall at my feet, with a letter ty'd to it. I looked carefully on all sides, to see from whence it could come; but was not able to make the least discovery. I pretended at first not to perceive it, and went on inspecting as before. But after a second reflection, I cast about for the best means of picking up this letter, without being observed. I effected it by the following stratagem:

stratagem: I let my foot slip, as if by accident, and, in endeavouring to recover myself, conveyed the letter into my bosom. However, I had prudence enough not to read it till I got home, when opening it, I found it contained as follows:

“ FROM the means I make use of to
 “ convey this letter to you, you may
 “ easily judge that I have something of
 “ the greatest importance to communi-
 “ cate. Your looks, the good charac-
 “ ter I hear of you, and the great con-
 “ fidence the king reposes in you, all
 “ concur to assure me, that I am not
 “ addressing myself to an imprudent
 “ or senseless person. I shall know
 “ by your readiness in satisfying the
 “ desire I have of seeing you, whether
 “ you are deserving of the esteem
 “ you are held in. I shall expect you
 “ this evening in the Green Salon; fall
 “ upon some means of coming thither.
 “ You shall have no reason to repent of
 “ your compliance, and may perhaps
 “ find that I am not unworthy of having
 “ something risk’d for my sake.”

There

There was no name to this letter: but, as I knew by the writing it must come from some of the women in the seraglio, it gave me great uneasiness. I was apprehensive lest it might be a trap laid for me by the king, who was naturally of a jealous and mistrustful temper: or supposing, said I, that I may have made a conquest during the little time I have been here, it is equally the same; for the tender affection I bear to my lovely Sophia, will prevent me from taking notice of any advances of this nature. In either case, I am resolved to avoid any plot that may be laid for me, as it can be attended only with fatal consequences.

In consequence of this prudent resolution, I committed the letter to the flames, and thought of nothing but hastening my work. But how weak is Man! and how little able to promise himself the continuance of a first resolution! A second note, which was conveyed to me in the same manner as the first, and the sight of a most beautiful creature that I saw walking in the gardens, soon made me forget my former reflections. Forgive me, my dearest Sophia, if I here acknowledge what may perhaps

perhaps offend you : but my heart, which never with-held a secret from you, is willing to convince you that it is still the same. The second note was couch'd in these terms :

“ You must certainly be very insensible, not to have yet answered the proposal made you. I should have imagined, that you would have interested yourself a little more in what concerns me. If you knew my sentiments, and the situation I am in, I am persuaded I should not appear so indifferent to you. I shall expect you to-night in the walk of Palm-Trees, to inform you of both. Consider, that you will be the most cruel of men, if you fail in this ; and that you will be answerable for all the misfortunes that may happen to me. This is saying enough, if you have the least sensibility.” —

The reading of this letter, which seemed expressed in pretty plain terms, and the sight of the beautiful creature, whom I supposed to be the writer, made me for that time forget my first prudent resolves, and banished from my heart every

every thought of fear. My whole attention was now employed upon the means of satisfying the desires of so amiable a person. I cast about for a long time, but without success. But love, which is ever ingenious, at length furnished me with what I was in search of.

I have already observed to you, that the building of the palace was now raised to a level with the walls which bounded the gardens of the old seraglio. One of the engines, which we made use of to raise the stones for the building, had by good fortune been left on that side of the wall next the seraglio. This appeared the most proper thing I could have found to facilitate my design. Accordingly, when it was night, I lowered myself down by a rope, which was fixed to it, and got to the place of rendezvous, where I met the fair one waiting for me. As soon as she saw me, she cried out to me in Spanish, "Is it you, Cid Andalouzi?" I was agreeably surprised to hear her speak my own language: and the joy I had in finding myself with a person of my own country, dispelled a part of my fears. "Madam, said I, you are too well acquainted with
the

the laws of the seraglio, not to know what hazard those run, who are bold enough to venture into it. I will not conceal from you, that this was, at first, the reason that prevented me from complying with your orders. But I should have obeyed the first summons, had you done me the favour of letting me see you before." "You are very gallant, Sir, said she; but, before I begin to acquaint you with my situation, we will, if you please, retire to a place where we may confer with greater security."

She then led me to a bye-apartment, which she opened, and shut upon us again after we were entered. "Now Sir, said she, after we had taken our seats, you will doubtless be surpris'd at my proceeding; it is certainly a very extraordinary one: but what would not one do to preserve honour, life, and liberty? You know by experience how precious these are, and I see myself on the brink of losing them; and, what is more, must be oblig'd to purchase that loss with what I hold dearer than every other consideration in the world: in short, it must cost me my religion. This sacrifice Muley Ismael exacts of me in return to a passion which he has taken
for

for me; and, without this sacrifice, he cannot raise me to the rank of Sultaneſs, with which he propoſes to honour me. You know this prince, and that he is abſolute in his will; judge then, Sir, of my grief, by the extremity to which you ſee me reduced: was it not enough to be torn from my family and friends, to behold the loſs of an huſband, to whom I was but juſt married, without being ſhut up in this deteſted ſeraglio; and, as the height of all diſgrace, to ſee myſelf on the point of becoming the wife of a man whom my ſoul abhors, and who wants me to purchaſe this hateful honour by a vile apoſtacy? This, Sir, is my cruel ſituation; and this it is, that has obliged me to have recourſe to you, to deliver me, if poſſible, from the brutal wiſhes of a Barbarian prince. You are a Spaniard, and yet more, a Chriſtian; two things that inſpired me with the hopes of bringing you over to my intereſt, and that my endeavours for this purpoſe would not prove vain. Grant then your aſſiſtance to an unfortunate creature, who places all her confidence in you, and who will for ever conſider you as her guardian angel.

This

This speech, which was accompanied with a flood of tears, pierced my very soul : I lost all thought of danger ; and, flinging myself at her feet, “ Command, cried I, dearest lady, my life and fortunes ; I will with joy sacrifice them both to free you from your sufferings. But alas ! this sacrifice will still make you more wretched : for, allowing that I can free you from this place, which would be no very difficult matter to me, whom love has already taught the means of conveying himself hither, how shall we be able to escape the search of Muley Ismael ? No Madam, no ; as nothing is impossible to Love ; so nothing can escape the eyes of an enraged, jealous, and all-powerful lover. Let me then advise you to defer for some time a project, the execution of which must certainly prove fatal. Time, which brings about all events, may furnish us with some unlook’d-for favorable opportunity ; perhaps it may even now be nearer at hand than you yourself imagine. When it comes, you shall see whether or not my love is sincere, and if I fear to expose myself for your sake.”

“ No, no, I cannot wait much longer, Sir, said she ; I see all the danger that threatens

threatens me, and cannot but have a grateful sense of the obliging fears you express on my account, and will for a little while follow your prudent advice: but, as my situation is of all others the most dreadful, let me engage your promise not to abandon me, and that I may depend upon your assistance the first opportunity."

Though my heart was not absolutely determined, yet I plainly found that I loved this beauty enough to refuse nothing for her sake. I therefore gave her the promise she desired of me, and she, on her side, to engage me more effectually in her interest, acquainted me with the circumstances relating to her birth and family, which was one of the most illustrious in Spain. She told me how she had been carried off by pirates a few days after her marriage; how she had the grief to see her husband perish in the sea, while he was endeavouring to rescue her from the hands of her ravishers; how she was brought into the seraglio, and how Muley Ismael became enamoured of her there.

This mournful relation, which she accompanied with whatever an afflicted woman could think most capable of moving

the heart, lasted so long, that I found myself under a necessity of reminding her, that it was time for us to part, for fear of a surprise, as indeed it was very near day-break : we therefore left the place where we were, and I took my leave of her, after making her a thousand protestations of fidelity, and having agreed with her on a signal for waiting upon her when it was necessary.

We parted in a lucky moment: for, I had scarcely left her, when I heard a man cough at some few hundred yards distance from me. Though it was still so dark that I was in no danger of being seen by him, yet I could not help fearing that I was discovered, and that all was over with me. I now felt all the consequences of the rash step love had made me take, a sudden terror seized on all my senses, and I remained for a little time as motionless as a stone: but recovering soon from my fright, I began to think how I should avoid meeting this person. My first thought was, to turn into a labyrinth, which was at my left hand; but reflecting again, that I possibly could not find my way out of it again easily, I had recourse to another expedient.

Among

Among the many ornaments, with which these magnificent gardens abounded, were a number of very beautiful statues: I had observed some few days before, that several of them had been removed from the pedestals on which they stood, for what reason I cannot tell. It happened by chance that I was at this time in the very place where there was one of these wanting, and it came into my head to supply its place. The white dress I then wore as the most suitable to the business I was employed in, together with the darkness of the night, favoured my design. Accordingly I got up upon the pedestal, not without a great deal of trouble, and put myself in the attitude in which I had seen the statue of Mahomet. I imagined, that the veneration the Moors have for their great prophet, would free me from any bad consequences to which my imprudence had subjected me: but this very supposition had nearly proved my ruin. The chief eunuch Hadgi Abselem, who was the person I had heard cough, came directly to the spot where I was, and made a full stop; and whether he took me really for the great prophet, or whether he had a mind to dissemble, (for he was quite

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alone)

alone) he prostrated himself before me, and addressed a prayer to me, that would have made me laugh most immoderately at any other time. His prayer was so long, the fear I was under was so great, and the attitude I stood in so very painful, that I thought I must have fainted every instant: however, I was obliged to remain in the same posture near a quarter of an hour; at the end of which he arose, and kissing the pedestal on which I stood with great devotion, continued his way.

I did not wait for his getting into the palace, but instantly mounted by the same way I entered, and firmly resolved never more to expose myself to the like adventures. I continued some time in this prudent resolution, and should in all probability have done so much longer, but for two unforeseen accidents, which revived afresh in my breast a love that I had thought for ever extinct. The one was the news of the death of my dearest Sophia, which I learnt from a Spanish sailor, who had lately been taken prisoner by one of the corsairs. This threw me into a deep melancholy, which I was for a considerable time before I could get the better of. When I came to be a
little

little restored to my reason, it happened one day that Muley Ismael came, according to custom, to see how our work went on; and amused himself with talking to me for a longer time than usual, and with a freedom that I had never observed before. After some discourse relating to the matter in hand, "Andalouzi, said he, thou hast been in love, and therefore can'st not be ignorant how much a moment's delay costs the impatience of a lover: I wait only for the finishing of this building to complete all my joys; it is in this palace that I am solemnly to espouse a person whom I love to distraction, and for whose sake alone I have caused it to be built. Judge, then, whether the trust I repose in thee does not deserve thy utmost assiduity? Make haste to answer my confidence, and before the end of the spring, if possible, let me have every thing ready for the reception of her for whom I burn with the greatest impatience to possess." In so saying, he retired and left me.

These last words effectually revived a passion I had endeavoured to suppress: I now felt all the force of the impression her beauty had made on my heart. On the other hand, the supposed death of

my first wife released me from all engagements, excepting those only due to her memory, which I ever preserved the tenderest sense of: so that I formed a thousand flattering schemes of happiness in a second marriage, if I should only be fortunate enough to rescue the fair object of my wishes from the confinement she was in. I now resolved to seek all opportunities of seeing her, and eagerly looked out for the signal agreed upon between us, which was a parrot to be hung out of the window of her apartment: but several weeks passed without my seeing any thing of the kind; and, as the building was now nearly finished, the king declared his intended nuptials to all the great men of his court, and even fixed the day for their celebration, I now saw the fatal moment approaching, when this innocent victim was to be sacrificed to the hated passion of a despotic tyrant. I now reproached myself a thousand times for my baseness in having so long abandoned her to the power of a barbarian, and resolved, at all events, to deliver her out of his hands. But the removal of the engine, by the help of which I had got over the garden-wall, having been long removed

removed on account of the building being almost finished, and the strict guard that was kept in the seraglio seemed to render all attempts fruitless, when love that had favoured me at first, now threw another opportunity in my way, by so much the more acceptable, as it came at a time when all other methods seemed at a stand.

As I was one day leaning in a musing posture upon a window that looked upon those of the apartment of my lovely captive, and ruminating on some stratagem to get at the speech of her, I saw the chief eunuch enter followed by several slaves. I was under a great surprise at this sudden visit, which was encreased when I saw him approach me with an air of trouble and concern, but when he began to speak he relieved me from my inquietude. "Cid Andalouzi, said he, saluting me, you see me here in the greatest perplexity: the king has just charged me with a commission which it will be impossible for me to execute without your assistance. He proposes to give a concert to his intended sultanness, and as she has expressed a desire of having an harpsichord, or a set of chamber organs, in order to make one in the

band herself, his majesty has commanded me to procure one on any consideration. I immediately searched this city through, and have even sent to Sallé, but these kind of instruments being very seldom used by the people of this country, I have not been able to get tidings of one. In this dilemma I recollected, that as you are a Spaniard as well as the sultaneſs, and have a correspondence with moſt of the Europeans here, you might perhaps aſſiſt me in finding what I myſelf may otherwiſe ſeek for in vain."

Tho' there ſeemed nothing more than ordinary in this affair, yet love that is ever penetrating and ready to find out a meaning in the moſt indifferent things, inſpired me with a notion that there muſt be ſome myſtery beneath. I could never ſuppoſe that one in the unhappy circumſtances of the fair ſultaneſs, could poſſibly join in any diverſion with a man who was ſo much the object of her horror and hatred, much leſs offer herſelf as a principal party in it. I therefore concluded it muſt be ſome ſtratagem ſhe had made uſe of to procure me the means of ſeeing her, and I reſolved to turn it to my advantage. I then answered Hadgi Abſe-

Abselem, "that it was my good fortune to have the very thing by me that he was in search of, and that I should think myself but too happy to have it in my power to contribute to the entertainment of the sultaneſs or his ſatisfaction." Joy was inſtantly lighted up in the eyes of the chief eunuch, and he embraced me a thouſand times to teſtify his gratitude; and left me, telling me, "that he would immediately ſend ſome of his ſlaves to fetch the inſtrument from my houſe." As ſoon as he was gone I had the lock taken off the organ and a new one put on, and then gave my ſervants orders to deliver it to thoſe who came for it. Having diſpatched theſe neceſſary preparations, I went up into the room where it was, and ſhut myſelf up within ſide of it, where I was ſcarcely ſettled when the ſlaves of Hadgi Abſelem came to fetch it away. They complained greatly at firſt of the weight of it, but after ſome effort they maſtered it, and I was then conveyed into the old ſeraglio, and from thence was, by the chief eunuch's orders, carried into the young ſultaneſs' apartment. She was juſt then alone, having either ſent her women purpoſely out of the way, or they being

employed about other business. Be that as it will, the eunuchs were no sooner withdrawn, than she got up to open the organ-case; but I spared her that trouble, by opening it myself with a key that I had brought with me, having given a false one to the slaves, to prevent any accident that might happen from their curiosity or that of their master.

But how great was her surprize, when she saw me come out of the instrument; the natural timidity of her sex overcame her, and she gave a cry that was near discovering all. “ Take courage, madam, said I, I do not come here to surprize or terrify you, but in compliance with the promise I made you, and to assist you to the utmost of my power in the extreme danger in which I foresaw you must be; judge then of my love by the boldness of my attempt.”

“ Ah! sir, replied the sultaneß, I should be guilty of a crime to doubt it after what you have done for me, nor will it be possible for me ever to forget it; my greatest misfortune is, that I am unable ever to repay the obligation; but, for heavens sake, complete what you have so nobly begun. You cannot be ignorant of the intentions of Muley Ismael,

Ismael, nor of the preparations making in the seraglio for the fatal day when the barbarian intends to force me to this detested union. You know my heart. Heaven, to whom when we last met, you advised me to have recourse, has deigned to inspire me with the means of preserving my honour and my faith from his brutal violence. One thing alone stops me, which is, that I stand in need of a vessel to bear me speedily from this barbarous land to Europe. I have cast my eyes on you for this purpose, and do not doubt that you will consent to grant me that favour, to which you are in some sort engaged. If it was love that brought you hither thro' all the thousand obstacles that guard the passage, the same power will assist you in this undertaking likewise, which will put the finishing stroke to the numberless obligations I already lye under to you."

"It would be wronging me to doubt an instant of my devotion to your service, adorable creature, replied I: you shall be satisfied you are too dear to this heart for me to refuse you any thing. I will instantly go to Sallé, and if I do not find a vessel ready to sail I will freight one against to morrow." Prudence would
not

not permit us to waste longer time in parley, I returned to my hiding place, and the sultaneſs, having called up her women, ordered them to ſend back the organ by the ſlaves that brought it, with word to me that one of the keys was out of order, which ſhe deſired me to repair as ſoon as poſſible, and ſend back the inſtrument as ſoon as it was done. I was accordingly carried back to my own houſe, where I no ſooner found myſelf alone, than I came out and prepared for my journey to Sallé, telling my people that I was going there for a day or two on buſineſs relating to the building. At my arrival I addreſſed myſelf to a French merchant of my acquaintance, requeſting him to procure me a convenient place for concealing a young lady, in whoſe ſafety I was particularly intereſted.

It muſt be owned, to the honour of that nation, that none more readily and chearfully devote themſelves to the ſervice of others, even ſtrangers; in fact this gentleman beſtirred himſelf ſo zealouſly and effectually, that notwithſtanding the delicate nature of the commiſſion I had given him, he acquitted himſelf of it entirely to my ſatisfaction. Having now taken every neceſſary meaſure, no-
thing

thing remained but to give the young sultaneſs advice of what I had done, that ſhe might be ready on her part ; to this purpoſe I incloſed the following billet in the organ, when I ſent it back to her.

“ EVERY thing is put in tune, according to your orders ; ſo that I hope the concert will go on without interruption, provided the perſon to whom the inſtrument belongs, performs her part properly. It would give me the higheſt ſatisfaction to have contributed towards it ; and I beg leave to aſſure her, that I have in every point punctually obeyed her commands, and wait with the greateſt impatience for the event.”

I gave this equivocal turn to my letter leaſt Hadgi Abſelem’s curioſity might induce him to look into the organ, but it ſeems my precaution was needleſs ; for I learnt afterwards that he made his eunuchs carry it into her apartment without once opening it. The concert was performed the next day ; and I was told that the ſultaneſs gave ſuch admirable proofs of the ſweetneſs of her voice, and the excellency of her play, that

Muley

Muley Ismael became more than ever enamoured of her. I now waited with the greatest impatience for the event of our scheme. The night was pretty far advanced, and no one as yet appeared; which made me imagine that we were either discovered, or that the sultaneſs had put off her project till another opportunity. In this ſtate of anxiety I was paſſing the moments in a manner not eaſy to be deſcribed, when one of my ſervants came running to inform me, that the old ſeraglio was all in flames and every thing in the utmoſt confuſion. This alarming news made me tremble for the life of my adorable ſultaneſs, and I was flying to her aſſiſtance when I found myſelf ſtopt by a perſon whom at firſt I did not know. This was no other than the ſultaneſs herſelf: “Whether are you running, Cid Andalouzi, ſaid ſhe to me, have you forgot the promiſe you made me yeſterday, on which I have placed all my dependance? Is it thus that you mean to perform it?” “Ah! madam, cry’d I, I am ready to lay down my life for your ſervice, I was this minute flying to your reſcue; but what good angel delivered you from the flames?” “That you ſhall know hereafter,

after, replied the sultaneſs; the moments are now too precious to be waſted: let us be gone this inſtant: convey me to the houſe of ſome of your friends till the time of our departure. I carried her directly to the houſe of a Spaniſh merchant of my acquaintance; and, having procured her an European dreſs, made her paſs for a Spaniſh ſlave, that Muley Iſmael had made me a preſent of. In order to render her eſcape more eaſy, I had ordered freſh horſes to be kept ready at every Adouar or inn between Mequinez and Sallé: this was an eaſy matter for me to do, Muley Iſmael having made me a preſent of five and twenty of his horſes, and two poſt-chaifes, on account of the frequent journeys I was obliged to take in virtue of the employment he had conferred on me: I therefore ordered one of theſe to be got ready directly, and mounting with my fair fugitive, we made the beſt of our way for Sallé.

The warm intereſt I took in her miſfortunes, and the ſingularity of her eſcape, made me curious to know how ſhe had avoided the common ruin which ſeemed to threaten thoſe who were in the ſeraglio when it was on fire. “ You muſt know then, ſaid ſhe, that it was
 myſelf

myself who set fire to it. In despair at seeing myself in the power of a tyrant, who would force me to be his wife, I thought that I might attempt every thing to free myself from his arms. This method, tho' a desperate one, appeared to me to be the most sure, since I knew it would be easy for me to escape from my guards, while the seraglio was in such a confusion; and that, imagining me to be perished in the flames, they would never entertain the least suspicion of my flight. By this means likewise I secure you from any inquiries that Muley Ismael may make during the time you have to stay in his court. Alas! what would I not have undertaken for a person who has given me so many marks of a sincere affection, and has exposed himself to so many dangers for my sake?"

Love never exerts itself so strongly as when we are on the point of losing the beloved object. This I experienced on the present occasion. I figured to myself the dangers that awaited us both. She alone, and amidst strangers on the wide sea. Me, at my return to Muley Ismael's court, whither my design at first was to return. The fury I foresaw he would

would be in, and which gave me the most dreadful apprehensions on one side; and, on the other, the love I bore to his beautiful captive, determined me to accompany her in her flight. I signified my intention to her, and asked her permission to put it in execution; adding, at the same time, all I thought necessary to convince her of my passion. She received my declaration and offer, in a manner that perfectly satisfied all my doubts, and I was now absolutely determined. There was only one circumstance which gave me uneasiness, which was the want of money: for, as my departure was so sudden, I had brought no more with me than was just necessary to defray the present expences, and to pay for the passage of my lovely charge. She soon perceived my uneasiness, and, guessing at the reason, put into my hands a little casket of jewels, which she had brought with her from the seraglio; telling me, that there was sufficient to supply all our wants. I kissed her hand, and returned her thanks, in the warmest manner, for this instance of her generosity: this gave birth to a thousand tender things on both sides.

If love has its moments of sorrow and vexation, it has likewise those which fully repay us for all our sufferings: such were these which I now passed with my lovely sultaneſs; and, notwithstanding the length of the way between Mequinez and Sallé is pretty conſiderable, yet it never appeared ſo ſhort as at that time. It was yet night when we got into Sallé, and we had the pleaſure to find the wind, of which there appeared to be a briſk gale, favorable for us. The veſſel, on board which we were to embark, was ready for ſailing, and the captain began to grow impatient at our ſtay. We found him waiting at the French merchant's I mentioned before, who received us with all that cordiality and politeneſs ſo cuſtomary to their nation. Having ſettled all matters relating to our paſſage with the captain, who was overjoyed to find, that, inſtead of one paſſenger, he was to have two, we took leave of the generous merchant, with a thouſand offers of ſervice, if ever we arrived in Europe: and putting ourſelves under the conduct of the captain, he carried us in his boat on board the veſſel; and, the wind being favorable,

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we immediately got under sail, and made such good way, that, by day-break, we were fifteen leagues distance from Sallé: the Heavens, which favored us at our departure, continued to smile upon us during the whole time of our little voyage; so that, at the end of three days, we arrived safely in the port of Cadiz, where we landed, in all the transports of joy that the sight of one's native country, after a long captivity, may be supposed to inspire. My lovely companion immediately dispatched away a messenger, to acquaint her friends of her arrival; who returned the next day, and with him, her father, Don Gonzalez d'Oreltanos. Never was interview more truly affecting. The venerable old man was near expiring with joy and pleasure; and his lovely daughter could not refrain from tears at the sight of a father whom she loved so tenderly, and whom perhaps she might never have beheld again, but for my assistance. Don Gonzalez, after having given her every mark of parental tenderness in his power, was impatient to know the history of her adventures: she readily complied with his desire, and related to him every part of her story, in which

which I bore no small share, as having been the instrument, in the hands of love, to deliver her from all her troubles. I observed with pleasure, that, when she came to that part of her narrative, she expressed herself with more than usual warmth and vivacity, which plainly shewed her heart not to be wholly insensible of what I had done for her.

No sooner had she finished her story, than Don Gonzalez got up, and clasping me in his arms, "Generous cavalier, said he, how shall I find terms to express my gratitude for what you have done for my dear child? services of this kind can never be sufficiently repaid: and, if the joy I feel this day, and which I owe entirely to you, is capable of suffering any allay, it is in the reflection that fortune has only left me a moderate competency: but, as you are too generous to expect impossibilities, I flatter myself you will be contented to share that little with us: as to myself, happy in having recovered my dearest child, I renounce all the other riches of life, and only wish to survive the excess of this day's joy, to give you proofs of my gratitude."

"Seignor,

“Seignor, replied I, I should render myself unworthy of your generosity, was I to think of accepting it. I know not what motives induced you to make me so noble an offer: but this I know, that there is but one alone that can prevail upon me to accept it, which is by joining to it your lovely daughter’s hand. I will not conceal from you, that I have loved her for a considerable time, and that it was this passion which made me attempt every thing for her sake. If you think I am deserving of any recompence, let it, I beseech you, be this; and thus lay me under an obligation to you for the whole happiness of my life. The blood which runs in my veins, and the hopes that charming lady has flattered me with, embolden me to make this demand. The house of Frontiera, of which I have the honour to be, may not, perhaps, appear unworthy your alliance: and if the fortune of the marquis my father is not so considerable”——

“Good Heavens! cried Gonzalez, what do I hear! the marquis de Frontiera! why, he is one of my best friends; and are you his son? what joy have I in embracing, in the person of a cavalier, to whom I owe such infinite obligations,

tions, the son of my honoured friend! and even, had you not had this advantage, your generosity has already recommended you so strongly to me, that I should think myself guilty of the highest ingratitude, to refuse you any thing you thought fit to ask. Rest assured, then, of my consent: I give it you with the greatest satisfaction, provided my daughter does not refuse her's."

At these words we both of us cast our eyes on her; he, to observe the effect of his speech; and I, to receive a sentence that was to determine the future happiness or misery of my life. She blushed at seeing our eyes fixed on her, and for some time kept a silence that gave me the most dreadful apprehensions. "Ah! Madam, cried I, in a transport of grief, you blush, and make no reply. Were then the fond hopes, with which I flattered myself, mere chimæras? and shall I reap no other fruit from all my love and assiduity, but to have made my own situation more wretched than before—" I was going to proceed, when she stopt me, by saying, "The silence you so much complain of, Sir, was not owing to my indifference for you, and you injure me by the suspicion: no one can be

be more sensible of the obligations they lie under than myself; and, if it would be ingratitude in my father to refuse you the reward you ask, I should still be more culpable, was I to add disobedience to ingratitude. He has prescribed me my duty, and I chearfully comply with it."

These words restored me again to life, and Don Gonzalez to his former satisfaction: he embraced us both tenderly, and from that time treated me as his child. I would have set out the next day for Frontiera, to throw myself at my father's feet, and acquaint him with this joyful news. But Don Gonzalez, and his daughter, insisted upon my going with them to their estate, where they detained me for several days; nor would suffer me to depart, but upon condition that I brought my father back with me.

There are some sensations which can be better felt than exprest. Of this kind was the joy my father felt at seeing me arrive. An absence of ten years, during which time he had never heard the least tidings of me, had given him reason to believe, that I had shared the same fate with the rest of my brothers, who
were

were all dead; some in the service of their country, and others of a natural death. My unexpected return appeared like a dream to him. He was for some moments in doubt whether it was me or not that he beheld. When he was at length recovered from the agreeable surprise, he loaded me with a thousand caresses, and bathed my face in a flood of tears. It was not possible for me to retain mine at the sight of a person whom I held so dear, and from whom I had been so long separated. As soon as the first embraces were over, he eagerly enquired into the cause of so long an absence. I related to him all that had happened to me, from my going to Portugal to the time of my escape from captivity. If the relation of my sufferings caused him to shed tears; the story of my love, and of my marriage with the daughter of Don Gonzalez, gave him as much joy. Charmed with the generosity of the father and the daughter, he resolved to satisfy the desire they both expressed of seeing him; and we set out together for my father-in-law's house, where our presence brought with it unspeakable joy. My marriage with the lovely daughter of Gonzalez was celebrated

brated a few days after our arrival, and put the finishing stroke to our general happiness, had there been any such thing as lasting happiness upon earth. But whatever relates to man, partakes of the weakness of his nature; and the more sensible he is to the objects that surround him, the more subject they are to change. The happiness which I tasted with my new spouse, was soon clouded by the death of my father, which happened in a very short time after I was married. I should have been inconsolable at this loss, had I not found in Gonzalez and his lovely daughter all that was capable of alleviating the severest sorrow. But, alas! I soon lost one part of this consolation; for, in less than a month afterwards, the good old man Gonzalez himself was taken from us, and the loss threw his charming daughter into the same excess of grief with which I myself was a short time before overwhelmed.

In spite of all my endeavours to comfort her for this loss, she would certainly have sunk under it, had I not fallen on an expedient to divert her melancholy, which was, to take her with me to the castle of Frontiera, under pretence

that my presence was necessary there to settle some matters relating to the fortune left me by my father at his decease. We lived there for near four years, in which time I saw myself the father of several children; but it pleased God to take them all to himself. If the loss afflicted me as a parent, the grief it gave to my wife touched my soul more sensibly: she was in a manner inconsolable: the castle of Frontiera became now as insupportable to her as that of Orellanos had been; so that I could think of no other way to free her from these melancholy reflections, but by taking her with me to Portugal. As my family were originally of this kingdom, we were still possessed of some estates in it, which my father left behind him when he went into Spain. She readily gave her assent to this journey when I proposed it: we accordingly set out and arrived at Evora, where I am at present fixed, as lying the most contiguous to the lands I have in this part of the kingdom.

We have been now three months in that village; which we should not have left perhaps for a long time, had not a friend of my wife's invited us to take share with her in the diversions of the vintage,

vintage, on which occasion we came hither. To this party I am indebted for meeting with my dear Sophia, whom I thought lost for ever. “Forgive me, lovely Thecla, continued the cavalier, turning to his second wife, who was there present, forgive me this seeming infidelity, if I make you a witness to my resuming my former engagements: you must be sensible they are such as cannot be dissolved but with life, and have a prior right to your’s. There is no pledge remaining of those I entered into with you: if we have been mistaken or unfortunate in our loves, it is wholly owing to ignorance and an honourable intention: there is nothing criminal in it in the eyes of God. These engagements must now cease: religion requires us to dissolve them. But if in this I satisfy the dictates of my conscience, think not, my dear Thecla, that I will ever abandon you: No! tender companion of my joys and sorrows, you have been too dear to this heart for it ever to be indifferent to you. But if my Sophia’s claim prevents it from being wholly your’s, you may at least depend upon its being filled with the most lively and sincere friendship for you. Let me conjure you to put it to

the trial, and come and share with us as you and I have hitherto done the fortune of both : I request this of you, in the name of that tender affection we have burnt for each other, in the name of my wife, who seems too sensible of your disappointment, not to contribute all in her power to make it easy for you."

While the cavalier was speaking thus, the lovely Thecla was bathed in her tears. The company, who had listened to this relation with the greatest attention, pitied her in their hearts, and could not but admire the caprice of fate, which sports with the affairs of human kind. But what was their surprise, when they saw the new bridegroom start from his seat, and throw his arms around that lovely mourner. "My dearest Thecla, cried he, all transported, is it a dream! May I credit my eyes! Is it you I behold? Alas! you are afraid to look on me! You answer me not! Have you then quite forgot your dear Juan de Velez? Ah! you thought me long since dead, as I, on my part, thought Providence had taken you to itself: but return from this error; behold your husband who calls you, and who from this instant

instant is ready to renew his former engagements, and will not part with you but with life. Will you not speak to me, lovely Thecla? Do you blush to own an husband who adores you?" "Alas!" replied Donna Thecla, (whom surprize had prevented from speaking when she saw her first husband in the person of the new bridegroom) "Alas!" replied she, "I blush rather at my own infidelity: but, if any thing can excuse me to you, let it be, that this seeming inconstancy was involuntary." "Excuse you, my dearest Thecla!" cried the enraptured Don Juan; "excuse you! ah! rather let me ask for pardon! me, whom you behold before your eyes, fallen into the same error. But what need is there for excuses on either side? It is the will, and not the act, that makes the crime. Cease then to reproach yourself for what I am alone guilty of, if there is any guilt. Let the example of the marquis de Frontiera, and his dear Sophia, calm all your scruples: chance divided them, and love has brought them together again, after an absence of ten years. Let us then, like them, resume our former engagements, and forget every past misfortune of our lives."

Donna Thecla could no longer resist the force of his reasoning: she yielded to the remonstrances of her husband, who now related to her all that had happened to him since their cruel separation; and how he had escaped from the dangers of the sea by swimming; and that, being arrived in safety at Lisbon, he had used all his endeavours to learn some news of her; but to no purpose, till lately; when he had been informed that she was burnt in Muley Ismael's seraglio, which had unfortunately taken fire.

“ Alas, said Sophia to the marquis of Frontiera, it was about the same time that I heard you likewise had perished in the flames, as you was endeavouring to save the king's favourite sultaneſs: and thinking myself a widow, I yielded to the repeated importunities of Don Juan, who was himself a widower, to make me his wife. Fortune at length, weary of persecuting us, now restores us to each other. Nothing remains, but to return Heaven thanks for its goodness; and to consult Mr. Licentiate here how we must act in this affair, to renew the former bands by which we were united.”

“ Upon

"Upon my word, replied Don Antonio very gravely, I know not what to say to it: this a ticklish business. For here I married you yesterday to Don Juan, who has doubtless made use of an husband's right; in which case your marriage cannot be dissolved. And, as to that between the marquis and Donna Thecla, it is still more binding, on account of four year's possession: so that really I don't see how we can clear all this up. Ah! if I had but a Sanchez *de matrimonio* here now, or if any of my brethren who have just left us had been present at this discovery, it would have been of great assistance to me, for they were learned and skilful men." "I see no occasion, uncle, said I, for so much learning to decide this question: the solution appears to me very natural. Marriage is an engagement, which, when entered into, is not to be broken, but by the death of one or other of the parties. Now here they are all living: consequently, the first marriages remain in full force; and those contracted since, are, in the eye of reason, absolutely void."

"Are you sure of that, said my uncle?" "I think, Sir, said I, the

least reflection may serve to convince you of it. But, if you must have authority to secure you, look into St. Thomas d'Aquinas, and you will find———”

“Nay, nay, interrupted Don Antonio hastily, if St. Thomas says so, it must be so to be sure. But, added he, we must give the sanction of form to your marriages again, good folks; for, do you see, you stand here as widowers both of you. Chance has brought you and your first wives together again; now, as this is to you a second marriage, the church must not lose any part of its dues.” The two husbands very readily promised him, that they would pay every thing that was requisite for renewing the ceremony, and that he should not lose any part of his fees. They then embraced one another as affectionate friends, and took each his own wife: after which the young lord, who had brought the company with him, carried them all back to his castle with him; and would fain have had us accompany them thither: but Don Antonio excused himself on account of his gout; and I, on the necessity there was of my keeping him company.

C H A P. X.

Description of the lives of the curates in Portugal. A story on this subject. D. Antonio's library. Return from the chace. The circumstances attending it.

WE now saw ourselves as solitary as we had but a few moments before been full of company. The first thing the licentiate thought of on this occasion, was to order supper to be got ready as soon as possible. I could not help being surpris'd at this, as it was hardly two hours since we had risen from table, where we had spent best part of the afternoon; and remarked as much to my uncle, who answered me, "that there was nothing in that, for he was always regular in his hours of eating; and that if he should deviate from his time but a few seconds it would go near to cost him a fit of sickness. Would you thing it, nephew, added he, with a very serious tone, I was very near fainting away the other day only by being obliged to stay till some soup which I had put in-

to my plate to cool, was fit to eat. Out bodies are like clocks, which are quickly out of order, if they are not wound up regularly ; therefore as I would not willingly break in upon the good state of health I at present enjoy, I take care d'ye see to provide for the wants of the body at its stated times, notwithstanding any good meal that may come in between whiles."

" They are very happy who can lead so regular a life, said I to my uncle."

" Why ay, reply'd he, I have lead this life for these thirty years past, and the good case you see me in may convince you there is nothing wrong in it. But you will be the better able to judge of it, if you will but once try it. And *à propos*, nephew, as you are now of an age, in which young people generally make choice of the way of life they intend to follow, may I ask you how you purpose to dispose of yourself?" " I believe, said I, my father would gladly have me take the long robe, but my mother opposes it, and is for having me by all means to be a monk." " Well and I, said the licentiate, drawing himself up with a magisterial air, will have you to be a curate. My brother and
sister

sister are two old fools, and don't know what they would be at. Are you cut out, think you, for a frock or a long robe? A fat living! a fat living, nephew! that is your mark." In answer to all this I observed to him, "that there was so much knowledge and uprightness of life requisite to filling the ministerial function worthily; that I was afraid I was not as yet duly prepared for it." "Stuff! mere stuff! cry'd my uncle. Knowledge! why I did not know near so much of the matter as you do when I was first put in possession of this living; and yet, as you see, I have maintained myself in it to this day, and not without some honor too, let me tell you. To be able to read a little, and write a tolerable good hand; to be perfectly master of the treatise of tythes, and to have a genteel manner of entertaining company, is as much as is required of an incumbent now-a-days. By the help of this he may live in ease and pleasure, and fatten on the plenty of the land, as you may be partly able to judge from the small specimen you have had since you have been in my house. What you have seen is nothing extraordinary, it is my usual method of living with my neighbouring brethren,

who

who are all hearty cocks, are they not? Now pray tell me what way of life can you pitch upon which affords more happiness and content?"

"It must be owned, answered I, that to speak with the world, nothing can surpass the pleasant life you and your brethren lead here. Pleasure seems to rise under their footsteps. They go from play to the table, and from the table to other diversions perhaps not quite so innocent; but in my opinion this way of life very ill suits with the notions we have of the priesthood, and still less so with the doctrine these gentlemen preach, who tell us, that the life of a christian while on earth should be a continual state of spiritual combat and mortification. If so, they cannot certainly be christians themselves, as they never either mortify the flesh or enter into any combat, unless those which they had between themselves a while ago about prince Albanus, be reckoned of the number. For my part, I have a great respect for your curates, not only on account of their character, but as being your friends; and yet I must own to you freely, that I should be much better pleased to see them in the king's service than in their present state,

as

as I am certain they would acquit themselves much better in the one than the other." "They would be very sorry for the change, nephew, said my uncle, and with great reason too, let me tell you that: in the army, do you see, there is always one who commands and will make himself obey'd; now in the church it is quite different, for we are the masters, and others must obey us. There every thing passes under the eye of a just and equitable prince, who seldom rewards any but those who merit it, either on account of their behaviour or the length of their services; here on the contrary, rewards are frequently bestowed without the least merit or service, accordingly we see several officers who quit the army to enter into orders; nay, I myself know several, who after having been driven out of their regiments, have thrown themselves upon the church, and are now in possession of some of the chief dignities in it.

D. Antonio would perhaps have continued his discourse much longer, had not the coming in of the servants with supper interrupted him; for as all the faculties of his mind while at table were wholly employed upon the dishes before him,

him, the conversation turn'd upon the goodness of the sauces, which were the richest and highest seasoned that could be made. He insisted upon my sitting down by him, and eating of a fine remoulade, which had been made of the best of every thing that had been left at dinner. But seeing that he could not prevail upon me neither by his most pathetic remonstrances nor his own example, " Ah! said he, thou wilt never make a good parson, I see that, for you want the two principal qualifications, which is to eat well, and drink well." I could not help smiling at this sally of the reverend epicurean, but was not in the least disposed to convince him of the contrary by following his example. After a very hearty meal, which did not last above an hour and an half, he began to think of returning to bed, and called for his young nurse to conduct him thither, as it was part of her office to undress him every night (which his unwieldy size rendered in some sort excusable) she began to perform it in my presence, but as I thought it favoured a little too much of indecency, I took that piece of service upon myself, which continued during my stay there.

The

The next morning I went into his chamber about ten o'clock, which I knew was the usual time of his rising. After the first compliments we began to talk of indifferent things, for I had observed that my uncle had neither a capacity nor taste for serious or interesting subjects. Our conversation began to grow pretty lively when we were interrupted by a countryman, husband to the woman who dy'd the day before, who was now come to desire my uncle to bury her. "To besure Perez, said he, but what sort of a funeral wouldst have? thou knowst there are of all prices."

The countryman made answer, "that he would gladly have it as decent a burial as might be for the satisfaction of their friends." "I commend your piety Perez, said the good curate, go my lad, your wife shall be buried like an empress. She shall be interred in the church, I will order all the bells to be tolled, and myself will say a fine high mass over her, with the richest ornaments, and all this shall cost thee no more than six ducats, because thou art a friend of mine."

"Six ducats, cry'd Perez, half frightened out of his wits, six ducats! wounds!

a was

a was neaver worth so much all her leaf time. Why you be joaking us zure maister curate. Ods zookers, I do'ant intend it shall coast me more nor six crusades, and yet have a very foin one too."

"Why then, reply'd D. Antonio, thou mayst have her buried where and by whom thou wilt, for I will never do it for less. I must live, and I should soon be starved if I was to bury at the price thou talkst of."

"Noa, noa, cry'd the countryman, grinning and scratching his head, there's noa vear of that Ise warrant ye, soa long as you keep such a corporation! Live fir! why you may live zure without eating people up alive, or vleecing a poor devil of a countryman of six ducats. Besides, if what Ise ask of you was to coast you ony thing or would be of any great zarvice to the poor creature that's dead, one moight perhaps make the matter up with you, but will it coast you any thing moar to have her leaid in the church than in the church-yard. Dost zink that the twanging of the bells will carry her faul the zooner to heaven. Come, come, measter Aletes, hearken to reason, and as it coasts you nothing,
and

and iven not zignify a vigs end to her, e'en be contented with fix crusades, or by my holy dame Ise bury her myself in the corner of our varm yard, and zee who'll be the loafer by that."

"Oh! I should be glad to see that, said the licentiate in a fury, do you know, sirrah, that I have a great mind to report you to the holy inquisition; I have reason enough for it already, why the defunct died like a beast without having taken the sacraments." "Vary true, said Perez, but whose vault was that preay? If any body is to be called to an account for that it will not be us Ise sure of that." "That signifies nothing, said D. Antonio, it is no matter how it came about, the thing is so, and that is sufficient to get thee burnt alive."

All the good sense and elocution which the countryman had hitherto shewn, failed him at this menace of the curate's as ridiculous as it was. But, indeed, his fears were not altogether without foundation, for there has been more than one instance of unhappy wretches being condemn'd to the stake by that horrid tribunal, for as trifling causes. His apprehension then got the better of him, and he began to sound a parley. "Wall, wall,

wall, Iſe zee, ſaid he, that we muſt all pay this holy tax, and dead or alive there's no zcaping you; howſomdever, I bequeſt your reverence to conſider that Iſe but a poor peazant, and have two children left upon my hands by the death of my wife."

" You are very badly off, indeed, ſaid D. Antonio, I think I am the greateſt loſer of the two by this accident. Thy wife was a young woman, and might have had a great number of children more had ſhe lived. Here are juſt ſo many chriſtenings out of my pocket, without reckoning the marriages and inter-marriages that would have followed of courſe; and notwithstanding all this, you think much of my aſking you ſix ducats! Hearkye, honeſty, if I had calculated all this before, you ſhould not have eſcaped for double the ſum.

Theſe curious reasonings ſeemed to have very little effect on the country-man; he repreſented his poverty and the multitude of taxes that he was loaded with, and in ſhort made uſe of arguments that might have ſoftened the moſt flinty heart; but all that he could obtain of D. Antonio, after abundance of intreaties, was the remiſſion of one half of
the

the sum, and that only on condition that he would not tell the rest of the peasants how much he had been favoured.

As soon as he was gone the licentiate got up, and went to the church to wait for the corpse, for as he was a person of great consequence in his parish, he never accompanied the procession unless he was very well paid for it. I attended him in order to see how the ceremony would be conducted. Indeed he did not make me wait long, for never was a greater volubility of tongue than he displayed on this occasion. The high mass was not above half as long as a common one; the decorations of the altar were some of the most ordinary ones, in short, master Perez was served for his three ducats.

As soon as the ceremony was over we returned home, and immediately sat down to table. We had none but ourselves to dinner, and so it was over in about two hours, when the cloath was taken away. D. Antonio threw himself, according to custom, upon a sofa, to take his afternoon's nap, and I finding myself left alone, thought to pass away the time in reading. I had brought no books with me, as I imagined I should find enough
at

at the licentiates; accordingly as soon as I heard him begin to snore, I went into his closet and began to look for his library; I opened all the places, and haunted in every corner, but the devil a book could I find.

At last, after a long search, I happened to cast my eyes on a table which was covered with papers, which I thought might be of consequence: and going to remove a parcel without looking at them, I fell upon a little book, entitled, *The art of drinking* *, a poem, translated into Portuguese from the Latin.

As the subject was neither interesting in itself nor suited my taste, I did not give myself the trouble of perusing it, tho' it appeared to me to have been much used, and I thought I saw some notes in it of my uncle's hand writing.

This discovery was followed by another still more curious. It was a book of nearly the same size with the former, entitled, *Pugna Porcorum*: † the battle of the swine. The near resemblance the
title

* *De arte Bibendi*: a Latin poem in several books, in imitation of Ovid's *Art of Love*.

† Another Latin poem, the author of which must certainly have been an original. It is written in hexameter verse, and all the words begin
with

title of this book bore to the battle I had been an eye witness to the day before, made me throw it aside. And here ended all my discoveries, at least of any consequence, for in the course of my search I only found an old Breviary without a cover, with the beginning and end torn out, and a directory which had been out of date for above twelve years. These four volumes made the whole of D. Antonio's library, nor had he ever had any other during the thirty years he had been curate.

Having finished my search, I returned to the room where I had left my uncle, whom I found still asleep, and therefore sat down with an intent of reading the little poem I had brought with me. I should soon have read it through had I not been interrupted by a loud noise of horses feet and the winding of hunting horns, which made my uncle at the same time start from his sleep. This was occasioned by a dozen gentlemen of the neighbourhood, who, in their return from hunting, had called at our house to re-

with a Poem as in the following verse which is the first of the book, [Plaudite, Porcelli, Porcorum, Pigra, Propago,] the rest of the poem is all in the same taste.

fresh

fresh themselves. After they had put their horses and their dogs into the stables, they came to pay their compliments to the licentiate, and to present him with a part of their game. The honest churchman returned the civility by ordering a number of bottles of wine to be set before them, which were emptied in an instant. D. Antonio seeing this, called for a fresh supply, but the gentlemen, who were no less nimble than thirsty, had already taken care of that article, a party having been detached to the cellar, whilst another was stripping the larder of all they could find in it. They were so ravenous that they tore the victuals out of each others hands, and did not give over eating while there was a morsel of any thing drest left in the house. When they had dispatched the present provision they were obliged to make a stop till what was laid down to the fire could be got ready. However, they made themselves pretty well amends with the wine, which they poured down in ample measure. As soon as the rest of the victuals was brought in, they fell to without mercy, and plates, dishes, and bottles did nothing but pass and repass. All their
dis-

discourse was about the excellence of the wine and the hospitality of their worthy neighbour D. Antonio, whose good cheer they said was the admiration of all the country round. These doings lasted till the day was pretty well shut in, and then these obliging gentlemen got on horse-back again, leaving their landlord poorer by half a hoghead of wine, than they had found him.

END of the FIRST BOOK.



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End of the First Book.

CHAP. II.

THE
HISTORY
OF
Don Ranucio d'Aletes.

BOOK II.

CHAP. I.

A picture of the financier D. Matthew de Grapina and his wife. What happened to two monks at his house. A description of his house, his library, and his collection of shells.

HOWEVER pleasing the life he led might appear to my uncle, I, for my part, began to grow heartily weary of it. What doings are here, said I to myself! their whole time

is spent in eating, drinking, and sleeping. Is this a life for a reasonable creature? I no longer wonder that our clergy, for the most part, are so remarkable for their brutishness and stupidity. Was there nothing else to deter me from entering into the state, but the being obliged to lead such a life, it would be more than sufficient to give me a disgust to it for the rest of my days. No, no; I will have nothing to do with a state in which the professors are equally a dishonor to it, and to themselves, by their riot and debauchery.

In consequence of these reflections, I resolved to be present at these kind of meetings as seldom as possible for the future: and, as the village did not want for company, I endeavoured to find a set of acquaintance, where I might meet with less noise, and more sobriety: and, for this purpose, I cast my eyes on the lord of the manor, whose house was the rendezvous of all the genteel company in that part of the country; and I was the more encouraged to this, as his son, whom I had seen the evening before at Don Antonio's, appeared to me to be a person of a sprightly turn, and social disposition.

Accordingly

Accordingly I went the next day to the castle, where Don Alexander (for that was the young gentleman's name) received me with the greatest politeness. He presented me to Don Matthew de Grapina, his father, who even improved upon the reception I met with from his son. He was a man of a mean aspect; and his understanding seemed altogether as gross as his person. His behaviour had nothing of delicacy or politeness in it; but that was made up by a great openness and generosity. I am apt to believe he did not always possess these good qualities; and for this reason, that he had made an immense fortune, by having the management of the king's farms. However, on the whole, he received me very handsomely, except the want of a little politeness, which was very pardonable in a man who rose from the dregs of the people, and consequently could not have had any opportunities of being acquainted with the rules of good-breeding in his younger days: and was now too old to begin to learn them.

As for Donna Cameria, his wife, she was, if possible, still more deficient. Upon being conducted into the room where she was, I found her engaged in a

party of cards : she took little or no notice of the compliment I made her at my first salutation, but was immediately for clapping the cards into my hand, insisting that I should make one of the party : I excused myself with all the good manners I could, telling her, that I should think I did great injustice to her agreeable company and conversation, if I suffered the cards to deprive me of an opportunity of entertaining her a while. The more I refused, the more urgent she grew in her intreaties ; and I do not know when she would have given over, had not the company shewn their impatience at being detained so long from their game.

Though I had ever a great dislike to the company of gamesters ; yet my complaisance and curiosity together, got the better of me for this time ; I could not deny myself the pleasure of seeing what would become of two monks, whom I found engaged at play with her, and who revenged themselves on their ill-luck, by venting a thousand curses against the cards. I plainly perceived, both by their countenances and behaviour, that their purses were at the last gasp. In short, in a very few minutes
time,

time, the lady eased them entirely of their load: but tho' they saw themselves stript of their last ducat, they were as eager for play as ever.

And now they began to redouble their oaths and imprecations; they cursed the cards, card-maker, game, and all to the devil, over and over again. The one swore he had lost every farthing he had been scraping together the whole Lent before. Another, that he had lost a guardianship, which he was to have purchased for sixty ducats, which were now all gone. While these venerable fathers were thus venting their choler against the lady who had won their money, she was so wholly taken up in reckoning her gains, that she had not time to attend to what they were saying: and I, for fear of being drawn in to play with her in my turn, (for, as she was upon the winning strain, there was no getting clear of her), rose hastily from my chair, and left the table.

Don Matthew, who, as well as myself, was heartily weary of play, proposed my going with him, to take a little refreshment. I excused myself at first; but the old man grew so pressing, that I could not refuse him. After we had

drank a glass or two, Don Alexander, thinking to oblige me, offered me a fowling-piece, and proposed a party of shooting: I returned him thanks for his civility; but assured him, that it was a diversion I had never taken delight in; but that, if it would do him any sort of pleasure, I was ready to accompany him. "No, no, said old Grapina, interrupting me, it will only be disagreeable to you: for my part, I cannot conceive what pleasure people can take in scouring over hedges and ditches after a poor innocent hare; or standing, planted like a statue, for an hour or two, to shoot a parcel of birds, that a little money will bring you ready for the spit."

"There is no disputing of tastes, Seignor Don Matthew, said I, we have instances of different ones every day; and though you and I are not fond of the chace, yet we should not condemn those who are. We all know it is a royal diversion, and contributes greatly to preserve the body in health and vigour. The princes and nobles of the land follow it, and almost every person of condition——." "Ay, said Grapina, that is true; it is for that reason that I am not so much against my son's following it. Well, go your ways, Don

Don Alexander, continued he; and, d'ye hear, use your best endeavours to get us something nice for Seignor Ranucio's supper to-night: in the mean time, he and I will go and take a mouthful of fresh air in my gardens, to get us an appetite."

In saying this, he opened a large glass-door, through which we entered into a magnificent parterre, laid out in the most elegant manner, and adorned with noble marble statues. As we went along, the old gentleman took upon him to explain to me the story of each of them, which gave me as much pleasure, as the sight of them, though they were certainly exquisitely fine. "You see that man there, said he, with his two sons, round which these monstrous serpents are twining; that is Laocoon, who came to the assistance of his two children, who were seized upon by these cursed creatures one day as they were fishing for eels. Not contented with devouring the poor little innocents, they fell next upon the father, and made an end of him too; and yet all the crime he was guilty of, as far as I can learn from history, was his having struck his spur a little too deep into the Trojan horse."

“ Observe that other figure ; that is Pegasus, who would not suffer Alexander the Great to mount him. Mark ! what a Main ! what an Head ! what a Chest ! He wants nothing but Speech to be alive.”

“ This statue you see here, is Milo, the Crotonian ; for whom Cicero, that famous Roman lawyer, made such a fine harangue : one would imagine, that the statuary meant to represent the force and strength of that famous orator’s eloquence, by the robust and nervous make of this body. Examine these Muscles ! here are Veins ! here are Sinews ! allow with me, that this is a Master-piece of Sculpture !”

I stood in need of all my gravity, to forbear laughing in his face, as he went on with his absurd explanations ; and had he continued much longer, I certainly should have done it : but, happily for me, he took me to see a labyrinth he had, in which there was a number of alcoves, every one more beautiful than another : we afterwards went to walk on a terras, near seventy feet long, from whence there was one of the finest prospects that can be imagined.

After

After having feasted me with all the curiosities without doors, he carried me back to the house, where he shewed me thro' the apartments, which were all of them most elegantly furnished: but nothing struck me so much as his library; it was a room of an immense length, and full of books, from one end to the other. He told me it contained no less than fifty-six thousand volumes. Is it possible, thought I to myself, that the laity should set such an example to our clergy? What a disgrace is it to them, to see a man, who never had the least taste for literature, possessed of such a fine collection, while in some of their houses, have not half a dozen books in them? Ah! my dear uncle, I wish you had the fourth part of these! But, indeed, what could you do with them, considering your taste?

I was occupied with these reflections, when Grapina asked me, my opinion of his library? "It is a very magnificent one, Signor, said I; but I am a little surprized at your bringing such a treasure into so small a village as this, when it might be of such use in the capital? There, it would gain you the friendship and conversation of all men of

learning, who would be charmed with an opportunity of having recourse to such a magazine of letters." "Well; and do you know, Seignor Ranucio, replied he, that it was this very reason which induced me to bring it hither: I was continually besieged by these gentlemen at Lisbon. Night and day they were handling my books, which spoiled them, and made me almost mad; for, do you see, I am none of your ignorant puppies, that judge of a book by the age and dirty appearance of it: no, no, I value a book for the beauty of the binding; and, when that is gone, the book is nothing to me, I throw it aside as useless; and I am so nice on this head, that I hardly dare venture to read one of them myself, for fear of damaging it. As for your learned gentlemen, they may find enough for their purpose, without me. There is the prince's library, which is open for them on certain days; and, besides that, there are several convents, which have very curious libraries, where they have liberty to go and study every day."

"That is true, Seignor Grapina, said I; but, do you know what it is to go among monks to study? If you was informed,

formed, as I have been by a friend of mine, of the ill reception they give to people of worth and learning on such occasions : if you could see the insolent airs they give themselves, and the mean compliances they expect from those whom they think stand in need of them, you would allow, that an author might, with much more ease, make a work entirely from his own brain, than to be indebted to them for the use of their libraries. One would imagine, that they carried the contempt they themselves have for all kind of learning to all who have any taste for it. Proud of being in possession of such a treasure, of which they know not the value, they deprive those who do from enjoying it, nay, frequently refuse them the sight of it."

"As to myself, replied the financier, I am above such meannesses ; for I take a pleasure in shewing mine to all the world. Observe, here are of all sorts and sizes, as one may say, and of all colours and shapes too. Indeed, I never read in them myself ; but my booksellers assured me, they were all chosen books, and of the very best editions." After what he had said to me a little while before, I was very cautious how I meddled with any of his books. But, seeing me

look at them very attentively, he took down a book from one part of the library, and, holding it out to me, "Here, Signor Ranucio, cried he, if you talk of books, here is a book! why, I would not give the collection that this book belongs to, for all the rest of my library put together: this, Sir, is part of a compleat collection of all the songs that have been made since the first building of the bridge that leads to the king's palace; you may judge from thence of its antiquity: but, what makes this collection still more valuable to me, is, that many of them were composed by a person of fashion, a relation of mine, with whom I used to scribble a little in this kind of poetry now and then." "What, said I, affecting a surprise, Are you a poet, Signor Grapina?" "Ay, and a musician too, Sir, replied he. Indeed, neither my music, nor my poetry, are the most delicate in the world; but they will do well enough, to shew a man's breeding in company. You must know I can whistle melodiously: there are few that can equal me in this accomplishment; and, when I set up my pipe, you would think you heard a nightingale at your ear. You shall be witness of it this instant:

stant : I assure you, I have been admired by numbers of people, ay, and of taste too." Upon this he began to whistle some trifling tune with a noise that went thro' my ears ; but I was obliged to bear with him out of complaisance, and even affect to praise this execrable discord. As soon as he had given over, I was for making towards the door, lest he should take it in his head to begin again.

I was got pretty near to it, when he called me back, and told me, That he had some things to shew me, of infinitely greater consequence than all the libraries in the world, and what he was well persuaded would afford me the greatest pleasure.

In saying this, he led me up to a vast cabinet, the folding-doors of which he immediately threw open : It was filled, from the bottom to about the middle, with a prodigious number of little drawers ; the rest of it was taken up with shelves, which rose one above another like a flight of steps, and on these were an infinity of large phials, full of spirits of wine. " In this place, Signor Ranucio, said the old Financier, in this place are all the treasures of nature, all the riches of the earth and sea ; in a word,

word, every thing that is valuable, or curious in the world; as you will acknowledge, when I have shewed you its contents."

After this pompous preamble, he opened two drawers, in which I expected to see some of the most glorious productions of nature; but, to my great disappointment, it contained nothing but a few oyster and muscle-shells, with here and there a large scallop or two, or a periwinkle of a remarkable size, which had never the least pretensions to beauty or rarity, but in the opinion of old Grapina. These were spread with great care and order upon a bed of fine cotton; the whiteness of which entirely eclipsed the beauties that the Financier was so fond of.

As I was very little taken with these supposed rarities, Grapina observed my indifference, and said, "You seem not to like this drawer, young gentleman; and yet, let me tell you, it is a very fine collection: I am sure, it cost me a very fine sum of money: but have a little patience, and I will shew you such things, such things! that—— There!" continued he, opening five or six drawers at once, "Tell me, if you
ever

ever, in your life-time, saw any thing to compare with these? here are beauties! only examine these Turbines; these Bivalves; these Nautili; these Tiaras; these Helmets; these Royal Mantles; these Shuttes; these Concas Vineris; these Towers of Babel; these———What say you now? Seignor Ranucio; what say you now! Is not this fine! is not this magnificent! can any thing exceed it? Why, this collection alone might purchase half the world; and, 'faith, they cost me a fine penny, and yet I had them a bargain too."

Seeing the old man in such raptures, the fear of mortifying him too sensibly, prevented me from telling him what I really thought of all these trifles, which are fit for nothing but to amuse children withal. "Why, says he, all on fire, you don't say a word! What? do you not think this beautiful? are you not pleased yet? Well, well; I have that will do for you, take my word on't. Here, Sir; pray, draw near: here are the master-pieces of nature's production. Here you will see my Tygers, my Panthers, my Dolphins, my Snipes, my swallows, my———" "What? then you have a menagerie, Seignor Grapina! said

said I, interrupting him." " Upon my honour, a pretty thought that, replied he; a very pretty thought that! and to the purpose; a menagerie! Well, I am resolved to remember that! and, from this day forward, this set of drawers shall be called *THE MENAGERIE*." In saying this, he opened two new ones, and shewed them me full of different shells, which bore as much resemblance to the things whose names they went by, as a chariot does to a wind-mill. He would have proceeded to shew me all the rest; but I began to grow heartily tired of this amusement, and to stop him in his career: I asked him, what kind of animal that was, which I saw preserved in spirits in a great glass upon one of the shelves? " Why that, Sir, said Grapina, is the serpent Python, which was slain by the Chimæra. In that other bottle, which you see by the side of it, are the two serpents, which Bellerophon strangled, while an infant in his cradle." He was proceeding to shew me the other things contained in the rest of the glasses which, he assured me, were the greatest rarities in the world; but, having had enough of the others, I began to look about for something else, and was greatly struck with

with a large bone, which appeared to me near thirty feet long; I asked him, which animal it belonged to? "That," said he, is one of the leg-bones of the famous Gargantua. That other small one, which you see by the side of it, is a tooth of the cyclops Polyphemus, when he was very young; it is not above three feet five inches and four lines in length. These other curiosities you see disposed about, are of various kinds: There is the foretop of Mahomet's hair, for which I gave a Jew three hundred and seventy-eight ducats; a part of the tail of a comet; a feather of Leda's swan, which was so admired for its beauty — observe how surprisingly white it is! Then here is one of Midas' ears; a stone from Pharaoh's pyramid; one of the horns of the goat Amalthea; a piece of the skin of the Minotaur; a wing of Medea's dragon; one of the strings of Orpheus' harp; and a tooth of the dog Cerberus: all of them very great curiosities, and truly originals; for there is nothing of the kind to be met with any where else in the known world." The good man had no occasion to swear to the truth of this last article; I was ready enough to believe it

on

on his bare word; and thought his simplicity as diverting, as the gravity with which the monks of St. Denis display their holy trumpery to the credulous.

Having now sufficiently satisfied my curiosity, as he thought, the Financier was just going to shut his cabinet, when recollecting himself, on a sudden, "what a dolt am I, cry'd he, striking his head, I was going away without shewing you the greatest treasure that is, perhaps, this day under the sun. Ah, my poor butterflies I should have had you finely upon my back if I had suffered feignor Ranucio to depart without seeing you." Upon this he drew out two drawers, which, for the sake of a better light he brought to a table that stood under one of the windows. I must acknowledge that I never in my life beheld a more glorious sight. The wings of the butterflies, which were disposed in an artful manner, formed a picture, whose vivid colours, worthy the almighty pencil, were not to be imitated by any mortal painter. But remark the mutability of human happiness and possessions, while Grapina and I were feasting our eyes on these beauties, a sudden gust of wind blew open the casement, and in an instant dissipated this

this beauteous spectacle. "O heavens! cry'd the Financier, in all the agonies of despair, I am ruined! I am undone! There is the most solid of all my possessions entirely lost in air, O cursed mischance! Oh, wretched Grapina! Ah, my dearest Ranucio, I am dead! I am bury'd! I am damn'd!"

I had much ado to forbear laughing in his face at these ridiculous and childish exclamations, but I thought that good breeding obliged me to do something towards assisting a man whose misfortunes had happened thro' his great complaisance to me. Accordingly I immediately shut the window, and then we both ran about like children after the dispersed wings of the butterflies, which the wind had blown about the room. After great pains and labour we recovered some few, but those were greatly damaged in passing thro' our hands. Grapina appeared overwhelmed with grief. I did all in my power to comfort him, by telling him that the rest would certainly be found by removing some of the books. This restored him a little to his reason and he grew more pacified. To complete his cure, I propos'd to him to go into the press-yard and see them make wine,

wine, which he agreed to with great complaisance.

C H A P. VIII.

Monkish toll on the vintage. The great aversion of the monks to labour. An adventure that happened to one of them in the pressing-house.

THE Financier now set out with me to the press-yard, where we found the country people making as merry as possible. The first object that struck me on my entrance was about a dozen monks in their different habits, each seated on a tun. Surprised at so extraordinary an appearance, I asked my conductor what they might be doing there: "What are they doing, said Grapina in a surprise, why sure you cannot be ignorant of that? Why these are the cellar-ferrets of all the convents hereabouts, whom the superiors have sent to collect their dues of the vintage. The tuns you see them seated on are what belong to their respective convents, and not one of them will stir till his vessel is brim-

brimful." " Good heaven's, cry'd I briskly, are not these poor people already sufficiently oppressed with taxes, but they must be obliged to undergo this new one, this holy exaction?" " Why I find, said Grapina, that you are not very fond of these reverend gentlemen, one would imagine that they had plaid you some scurvey trick." " Quite the contrary, I assure you, replied I, for they have always contributed greatly to my diversion, as well by the oddity of their dress and their rules, as by some very comical scenes with which they have furnished me." " If so, replied the Financier, you are not much beside the mark now, for this is the time that they commit more than ordinary extravagancies."

The noise made by the country people hindred the good fathers from hearing the panegyric we were making on them. When the diversions were ended, every one returned to work, and these holy collectors bestirred themselves very briskly, not suffering the least drop of their dues to escape them. One of the country fellows seeing them so busy in taking their shares, which was not the worst nor the least part of the wine, desired one of them to help him turn the wheel;

wheel; "God have mercy upon us! friend, said one of the monks, do you know what you are asking of us. No, no, we shall take care how we do any thing of that kind, I assure you. You do not know, I suppose, that our founder has strictly forbidden us to work under pain of incurring mortal sin." "If that's the case, said I interrupting him, he ought at the same time to have ordered all your mouths to be sown up, for "he that will not work shall not eat," but do not throw the blame upon your founders, who commanded directly the contrary; rather own that it is your own indigent and lazy dispositions that make you thus saunter up and down every town and village to eat up the subsistence of the poor, instead of working as the rest of mankind do."

This unexpected sally of mine disconcerted them a good deal, which Grapina observed, and in order to divert the conversation, set his people a dancing again. The fellows desired nothing better, and began to shake their heels with great alacrity: their mirth communicated itself to the monks, who would very gladly have joined in the diversion, had they not been apprehensive of a second lecture.

ture. In fact I was almost angry with myself for what I had done, for there were three or four of these grey-beards that would have been most diverting figures cutting cross capers. However, I was pretty well recompensed by a sudden sally of one of their companions, who starting up hastily, threw off his cloak, and getting into one of the mashing-tubs, began to harrangue us on the subject of the vintage. It was a piece of the burlesque kind, but appeared to me to have infinitely too much wit and learning in the composition to come from himself.

The monks seated on their tuns and the vintagers on the ground, listened with profound attention to his harangue, as did Grapina and myself, when a sudden accident happened which obliged our orator to quit his pulpit, and in an instant dispersed the whole congregation. I have already observed that he threw off his cloak at his first mounting the rostrum, in order, I suppose, to display his action to more advantage. While he was in the heat of his discourse, it chanced that an hungry mastiff passing that way came into the place where we were assembled; the creature finding no one take notice of him, as our attention was otherwise

wise employed; made up to the monk's cloak that lay on the ground, probably allured by the effluvia that proceeded from it; and after giving it two or three hearty shakes, fell to work with his mouth and feet so effectually, that he opened one of the pockets that hung to it, and out came the end of a leg of mutton. The fear of being disturbed, made him use all his endeavours to disengage it if possible altogether, but not being able to compass his ends there, he thought he should succeed better and eat it more at his ease without doors; accordingly he carries off the monk's cloak into the yard.

The whole congregation burst out into a laugh at seeing the priestly robe pass by them. The orator more attentive to his supper than the subject he was upon, perceiving that no one offered to go after his cloak, jump'd himself out of the mash-tub and ran after the sacriligious beast who had made thus free with the church habiliments, and by this time had nearly made himself master of the contents. A battle seemed now to be the unavoidable consequence: every one was eager to see how it would be managed, and in favour of which of the

two

two combatants victory would declare. Accordingly they all ran out into the yard, where they found the monk with one end of the cloak in his hand, disputing the possession with the mastiff, who, on his side, tugged as heartily at the other to maintain his hold. The dispute was very obstinate, and victory remained for a long time doubtful. The spectators, as is usual on such occasions, took different sides, but as yet fortune seemed to incline to neither party; but made use of the efforts of each to compromise the matter; in a word, the old cloak being torn into two pieces left the victory undecided. The mastiff, however, had this advantage over his adversary, that when the holy rag rent asunder, he saw him fall backwards to the ground. I immediately ran to raise the good father, and enquired whether he was hurt. "My greatest hurt, says he, is the loss of my supper; but I trust that providence will make it up to me."

In saying this he rose from the ground, and rejoined the spectators, who were still diverting themselves with his adventure. He was the first to join in the laugh, but

as soon as he saw the broken pieces of chaplets and agnus dei's, with which the cursed cur had strewed the way, and which the spectators had trampled into a thousand pieces with their feet; lifting his eyes up to heaven, "Blessed virgin, cry'd he, what do I see! What profanation is this! Holy rosaries and sacred relicks trampled under feet!"

"Indeed, said I, this is a sacrilege that deserves" — Don Alexander, who joined us in that instant, prevented me from saying any more: after a few moments discourse together we all three returned to the house, where supper was waiting for us.

If the entertainment was elegant, the conversation was full as insipid. Donna Cameria, who had been silent all the afternoon on account of the cards, now gave her tongue full loose, and seemed resolved to have every word to herself. She would scarcely allow us time to drink to each other, but was incessantly putting in one foolish question upon the back of another, and those of the most ridiculous and absurd kind. In short her tongue was the perpetual motion.

motion. I flattered myself with the hopes that the cloth being taken away, she would give us some respite, and in that view begged leave to retire as soon as supper was over, but the good lady immediately stopt me by saying, very frankly, that she never invited any one to supper without giving them a bed. I excused myself strongly upon my uncle's being ill, and in want of my attendance, but all my reasons were overruled, and a messenger was dispatched away to the Licentiate's, to let him know that he was not to expect me that night. Having thus gotten me within her power, she fell upon me without mercy, and overwhelmed me with an inundation of questions about my family. As, whether my father was rich, if he was in years, how many children my mother had had, how old she was when she married, if she was still handsome, if she was fond of play, and whether she saw much genteel company.

She was no longer in asking these questions, than I have been in enumerating them; so I will leave the reader to judge whether it was possible for me to put in an answer. Indeed I believe she would have been sorry that I had, for I no sooner

offered to open my mouth, than she stopt it by some silly question. I therefore resolved to let the 'larum run, which it did with a surprising rapidity. Certainly she was the most of a woman in that respect of any one in the world. At length, however, she began to grow weary of having all the talk to herself, and called upon me to relieve her; upon which I remonstrated to her, that as the night was so far advanced, if we continued our conversation much longer, it might have a bad effect upon her looks the next day. This little compliment procured me my release, she answered, that she was more in apprehension upon my account, and gave me leave to withdraw, which I accordingly did, not staying to be bid twice.

C H A P. III.

A visit from the Patriarch of Lisbon.
His magnificent train. A description of that prelate.

HOW disagreeable soever I had passed the preceding evening at Grapina's house from the stunning clack of his wife,

wife, I was amply recompensed for it the next day, by a sight that I should have missed had I returned home to my uncle's. This was the entry of the patriarch of Lisbon, who was on his visitation, and and stopt at our castle as the only place that appeared fit to lodge him. The ringing of the bells, and the acclamations of the people, who had all run to arms to give him the most honourable reception, and the still greater noise made by his own train, wakened me suddenly out of my sleep. This was the first time he had been seen in the town for above fifteen years that he had been archbishop and patriarch, and indeed it was the very first visitation he had ever made in his diocess.

By the magnificence of his train you would rather have taken him for the ambassador of some foreign potentate, who had a mind to captivate the minds of the people by all the luxury of pomp and shew, than a pastor come to visit his flock. Twelve mules loaded with his plate preceded four large covered wagons, in which were his officers of the mouth, with all the provisions and utensils for his kitchen. After them came twenty led horses, and six coaches.

In the two first of these were the lay officers of his grace's household, and in the two others his archdeacons and chaplains, and in the fifth a bishop suffragan, who acted as his grace's squire; the sixth which was drawn by eight noble Barbary horses, was filled by the patriarch in person, escorted by two valets at each door, two running footmen before, and eight lusty tall footmen behind. This pompous retinue was closed by a crowd of poor people who had followed his grace from Silveyra, where he lay the night before; to whom, in the abundance of his generosity and charity, he had ordered one crusade* to be distributed amongst them all.

Such a numerous retinue stopping at his house, would have frightened any man more in his senses than D. Grapina. But he on the contrary, who had never received such an honor in his life, was ready to run mad with joy when he saw them enter the court-yard. As for his wife, I thought she would have gone quite beside herself. As soon as she saw him coming at a distance you might have heard her running about the house like

* A crusade is nearly equal to our English crown piece.

a distracted woman, calling out as loud as she could bawl, Husband! husband! here's the patriarch! the patriarch is coming to our house! now who will dare take upon them to dispute our rank: But unfortunately for her, poor woman, she did not long keep up to the dignity of this supposed rank, for the moment the prelate had set his foot out of the coach door, she ran and threw herself at his feet, to ask his blessing, which she received among all the rabble that had attended his coach, and who had flung themselves prostrate on the ground for the same intent.

Notwithstanding the prepossession I had always had in favour of the dignified clergy, I could scarce keep my countenance at the sight of the patriarch's figure, which I had never seen the like of in my whole life. He was a perfect little Æsop, with this only difference, that the one was a poor slave, and this the younger brother of the illustrious house of Alcazone. I could not help admiring as he passed me, the prudent management of nature, who sometimes takes delight in humbling by the deformity of body, those men whose illustrious births might otherwise make them too proud.

proud. Tho' she had here exerted this wise precaution in its full extent, yet, from what I could observe, she had failed in her design. For this little limb of the church, had all that pride and self-sufficiency in his carriage which, tho' pardonable, perhaps, from the consideration of his birth, appeared ridiculous in one of his profession and figure. He made his entrance into the house preceded by all his officers, ecclesiastic and secular, most of them jolly well-looking men, which only served to make his patriarchal littleness more conspicuous.

The servants of the house, at the head of whom stood Grapina himself, received his grace's benediction as he passed by them, of which I had my share as well as the others, happening to be upon the stair-case just as he came up. Grapina seeing me there, begged me to assist him in doing the honors of the house, till some gentlemen he had sent to in the neighbourhood to keep the prelate company, could have time to arrive. I excused myself as well as I could, by alleging, that he was certainly himself the most proper and capable person to do that office in his own house; adding,
that

that I had not been used to the company of patriarchs, I might perhaps be at a loss in the decorum due to ecclesiastical dignity, which would subject me to commit errors, the blame of which would fall upon himself; but he would not listen to my excuses.

Accordingly we made our entry together into the room where the prelate was, whom we found very busy at a glass adjusting the curls of his wig, which had been somewhat disordered by the motion of his carriage. Grapina made him a compliment on his safe arrival, and returned him thanks for the honor he did him in making choice of his house to alight at. "Why yes, reply'd the prelate, with an air of indifference, I did so because I was told that it was the only house in the place fit to receive a person of my condition, and that you know pretty well how to receive company." "Your grace has not been deceived, reply'd I, D. Grapina is a person of so generous a disposition that it may be said, his house belongs less to himself than to those friends who do him the pleasure of coming to it."

The Financier returned my civility by a low bow: but I could observe that the

prince of the church was not well pleased with my freedom, in mingling in the conversation. He surveyed me with an air of haughtiness and contempt, which I answered by a resolute and collected countenance, that seemed to surprise him.

In the mean while D. Antonio, my uncle, after having taken care of part of the equipage at his house, made it his first business to pay his duty to the patriarch; accordingly he came to the house with all speed, and was announced by the name of the Licentiate d'Aletes. The prelate, not being acquainted with him, asked one of his grand vicars if this Licentiate was a gentleman. To which the other reply'd, "that he was not very much acquainted with the person, but that our family had been in possession of some of the most considerable employments in the long robe, and that his grace's predecessor had conferred this living upon him in return for a piece of service he had done him in a law-suit he had had with his chapter." "Oh! very well, reply'd the holy man, with an air of contempt, you know I never stoop to converse with curates, unless they are men of family, so this is
your

your business. Go, receive him, and then visit his church; after that is over, I would have you go to those impertinent nuns, and give them a severe reprimand from me, tell them, d'ye hear, that as they have given me the trouble of coming all this way, if they make me come to their convent they must expect to pay me for my journey."

I could hold out no longer against so much pride and insolence. The contempt the prelate had expressed for all priests, and the affront he had offered to our family in particular, in the person of my uncle, stung me to the quick: and looking steadfastly at him, "This same Licentiate, said I, my lord, whom your grace is pleased to treat with such contempt, is nevertheless a pastor of the church of Christ, as well as your lordship." The patriarch seemed as much shocked at this parallel as I had been at his haughtiness; so true is it that an humble prelate is rarely to be found.

I should, perhaps, have suffered some insult from him myself, had it not been for the arrival of half a dozen gentlemen, as they called themselves, whom Grapina had gathered together from the village. They were great over-grown

loobies that you would have taken for day labourers, but for their long swords that trailed after them upon the ground, and were every minute ready to trip up their heels, when they made their congees to the patriarch. His prelateship very graciously uncovered himself when they entered, and having made them sit down, began to enter into a familiar conversation with them. I laid hold on this opportunity to leave the room, and go to my uncle's, whom I imagined must have a great deal of business upon his hands, by this unexpected visit.

C H A P. IV.

The motive of the patriarch's visitation. His behaviour to the nuns. A description of the Portugeeze clergy.

I Supposed at my return to my uncle's, to have found the grand-vicar still with him. But he had finished his visit long before, at which I could not help expressing some surprise. Why, what country do you come from? said the honest Licentiate; do you think, that

that we live in those times, when a poor curate was obliged to undergo long-winded lectures, tedious examinations and hard reprimands, that frequently ended in sending for three or four months to the seminary? No, no, thank heaven, our masters have abolished all these stupid customs, and apply themselves now-a-days to things of a more serious nature. More attentive to the tributes of faith, than the regularity of manners among their flock, for which they trust to us, they employ themselves wholly in suppressing all innovations in the church; and this, as I have lately learnt from the grand-vicar, is the chief motive of our patriarch's visitation at this time. He was in hopes to have put a stop to these disorders by means of a new catechism, which he had published instead of that used by his predecessors, but this only served to increase the evil, and the work itself having had the misfortune to be disapproved by the holy inquisition, the innovator only laughed at it.

"What, said I, interrupting him, did the patriarch ridicule himself?" "Who is talking about the patriarch, replied my uncle; I am speaking of a set of schismatics

matics that we hardly know any thing about as yet, and therefore call by the name of the *Invisibles*, but they are a dangerous set. I wish you would explain yourself, said I; for my part, I think there can be no people so dangerous to the church, as those who take upon them thus to change its catechisms, which contain the first elements of our religion. Lord! how dull of apprehension you are, continued Don Antonio. It is of these very heretics, I tell you once again, and not of the patriarch, that I am talking. He, worthy man, is an excellent prelate, and a sound catholic; but all his diocesans do not take after him; and we have a parcel of little rebellious sluts of nuns here, that give him a great deal of trouble, they are infected with this invisible heresy, and have rejected him and his catechism together, and treated him no better than an innovator. Well, and what has been the consequence of this think you? Why, he has excommunicated them all, and sent the most refractory into banishment, and is resolved to demolish the whole convent, if they any longer refuse to receive his catechism. — You may laugh if you please, but let me tell you, this

this affair grows very serious, since he has been at the trouble of coming hither in person; they have been hitherto deaf to all remonstrances and wholesome discipline, let us now see how they will hold out against his grace himself, let us see if they will laugh at him as they have done at his substitutes."

"If they should, replied I, I fancy they will not be alone, for I cannot help thinking that it is very absurd in our prelates to expose themselves to the scorn of every person of understanding, for making such a stir about trifles. Do not these poor girls suffer enough already from their perpetual imprisonment and the severity of their vows, without being tormented with such stuff as this?"

"Why then, replied Don Antonio, with some warmth, do they not do as they are ordered? Is it for an archbishop and a patriarch to give way?" "Yes, doubtless, answered I, if he is in the wrong, cannot he leave the poor girls to their needles and their beads, and in the belief they have always been in? Is he afraid they will stir up heresies? It would be something very unaccountable if they did —."

Here

Here our conversation was interrupted by a servant of the patriarch's, who presented my uncle a paper from his master, which he had no sooner read, than the honest man began to change his tone. "Oh, the extortioner, cry'd he, beside himself with rage, does he know what he is doing, tax me at an hundred ducats! Why it is more than the whole income of my living! Does he not squeeze us enough already with his tenths? Am I not devoured enough with his mules and his horses, but he must come himself to complete my ruin? An hundred ducats! S'death, he is worse than *Anti-christ*, he is a man-eater, to ask an hundred ducats of a poor country curate!"

I was going to ask him the cause of all this wrath, when giving me the paper, "here read this, said he, and tell me if there was ever such a Jew, such an Arab in the world as this man. An hundred ducats for my share towards defraying his expences. Where is conscience! Where is religion!" "Why among the prelates, reply'd I, at least you told me so just now."

"Yes it is a very pretty religion, indeed, replied he, these gentlemen profess, that consists only in satisfying
their

their luxury, vanity and ambition, at the expence of others!" "Nay, now my dear uncle, said I, you are carried away by your passion, or you would never speak thus of those worthy men, those saints, who——" "Hold your tongue, nephew, said he, I say no more than the truth, nor all that, as you would say, if you knew as much as I do. Do they not treat us like their slaves, they tax us, they eat us up, and afterwards they cry we do not provide enough for the poor. Why we must have mountains of gold to supply their extravagance, and those would hardly suffice."

Tho' anger had a great share in what my uncle had been saying, yet I could not help thinking that there was some truth in his remarks, from what little I already knew of the world. I therefore pretended at first to join with him in his resentment against the prelate, in order to divert myself a little with him, but afterwards remonstrated to him that however exorbitant the demand might appear, yet it was in fact but a very moderate sum. He seemed surprized at this, "What, an hundred ducats, nephew, cry'd he, an hundred ducats a moderate sum!" "Doubtless, reply'd I, and

and thus I will prove it to you : Every bishop, you know, has not only a right, but is obliged by his duty, to make the visitation of his diocese yearly, and many on that account demand an annual sum from you to defray their charges, now there are above fifteen years that this man has not troubled you once, therefore reckon up what it would have cost you had he paid you a visit yearly, and you will find you have got a good bargain." " A very pretty way of reasoning indeed ! replied Don Antonio, pray are we obliged to pay people for what they do not do ? " " That is but too customary in the church my dear uncle, said I, therefore take my word for it, instead of complaining of the patriarch, you may think yourself very happy that you have to deal with so quiet a man. Consider, you have been your own master for upwards of fifteen years, you have had your full swing of pleasure, you have regaled yourself and your friends, in short, you have done whatever you thought fit, without this good patriarch having once troubled his head about you, and yet you think much of giving a little money for so many years of indulgence : come, come, I know some of
your

your brethren who would gladly give four times the sum to enjoy your liberty, for there are several bishops, who, in order to put a stop to the excesses of the clergy, have laid a duty upon every gallon of wine used in their houses, I shall only mention the bishop of Leirã for one." "Oh! said my uncle, he's a worthy subject to besure, and this piece of reformation as well becomes him, I suppose it is one of his tricks to get money. However it is not quite so bad as many others he has put in practice upon those concerned with him, witness his late treatment of Don Lopez de Silva. I must tell you that story, because it is a very extraordinary one in its kind, and may serve to shew you that you must not always judge of the honesty of these gentry by their outside of devotion and religion."

C H A P. V.

The story of Don Lopez de Silva.

DON Lopez de Silva having lost his parents very young, fell into the hands of a guardian, who, according to the custom of all countries, found means

means to embezzle the greatest part of what had been left him: he might probably have comforted himself for this loss, had care been taken to give him an education suitable to his birth, and that might have made him amends for the want of fortune; but by the avarice of his guardian he was deprived of this likewise; so that at his entrance into the world he found himself destitute both of wealth and means. In this unhappy situation there remained but two ways for him to chuse, the army or the church. He made choice of the latter, as the most suitable to his circumstances, and in order to qualify himself for it, put himself under a doctor of Coimbra, named Don Alvar, who finding him a young person of an apt disposition, taught him as much Latin as was necessary to understand his Breviary, after which got him ordained, and very charitably presented him with a purse of fifty ducats to help support him till he could procure him some little living.

Don Lopez, instead of waiting with patience for preferment, of which he could hardly have missed, as his patron was an intimate friend of the bishop of Coimbra's, resolved to owe his good fortune

tune wholly to himself, and, quitting his benefactor, made the best of his way for Leira. He had been told that the bishop of that city had a great number of livings in his gift, and was not very scrupulous in the persons he nominated, for the first that apply'd might have the presentation for a small gratuity. You must understand that the good bishop did not do this out of a principle of avarice, for he appropriated all the money he got by this holy traffic to the support of a pretty wench called Donna Valeria, whom his reverence honoured with his affections.

Our young priest, not thinking himself to have sufficient merit to be provided for so speedily by the bishop of Coimbra, imagined he should find a sufficient recommendation in his purse to him of Leira. Full of these hopes he arrived in that city, but missing of his lordship, who was then at Lisbon, having been sent for up to court, that they might have a closer eye upon his conduct. Don Lopez having applied to one of his secretaries, who served him at the same time in quality of broker, was told, that his lordship was attending the court upon some affairs relating to
his

his diocess, and that as his business was of such a nature as to require speaking with him, it would be his best way to follow him thither, assuring him at the same time that he would have no reason to repent of his journey. He accordingly set out with a letter of recommendation to the bishop, or more properly speaking, a letter of instruction to his lordship, how to make the most of what fortune had thrown in his way.

As soon as Don Lopez got to Lisbon, he immediately went to pay his respects to the prelate, whom he found in holy retirement among the brothers of the *Propagation*. Never was appearance more deceitful than his, his downcast eyes, his humble deportment, his edifying discourse, and his whole behaviour in general, might have made him be taken for one of the best men that had for a long time adorned the ministry. At least such was the idea that Don Lopez formed of him, when he presented him with the letter he brought from his secretary.

When the prelate had read it he embraced Don Lopez, and began to return thanks to heaven for having sent him a person so worthy to fill a place in his church. "Son, said he, it was certainly
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the hand of providence that conducted you hither, you could not have come in a better time, for I have just received a letter, informing me, that one of the best livings I have in my gift is lately vacant. The last incumbent was a pious and worthy man, and I think I cannot give him a better successor than yourself; may you live long to enjoy it, and acquit yourself as uprightly in it as he has done. You have nothing to do but find out my secretary, and tell him from me to fill up the necessary form in your name. You will excuse me from leaving you at present, I hear the Rosary bell ring, and I must go to prayers with our reverend fathers —."

Don Lopez enchanted with the affable behaviour and deceitful kindness of the hypocritical bishop, did not know what to think of the stories that had been told him to his disadvantage, and was ready to impute it all to envy and calumny. So good a man, said he to himself, cannot escape the malice of evil tongues! Ah, what a villainous world is this! These reflections occupy'd him till he got to the secretary's, whom the bishop had taken care to prepare by a note; and having acquainted him with what
the

the bishop had done for him, this faithful servant immediately set about making out the forms, which he soon dispatched. Our young curate was no less charmed with the disinterested manner of behaviour in the secretary, than he had been with that of his master, and began to congratulate himself on the success of his journey; the business being, as he thought, entirely done, but when they came to sign and seal, the secretary began a very pathetic discourse upon charity, magnifying the necessities of the diocese, and the great number of poor it had to maintain, which had obliged the good prelate himself, he said, to retire into a monastery, in order to save wherewithal to support them; he then launched out into a pompous panegyric on the bishop's virtues, and his love for the poor, which was so great, he said, that it had put him upon inventing a scheme for supplying their wants, by making those who were presented to livings contribute towards a charitable fund out of the income of their livings. And therefore requested him to be so good to count out a thousand ducats while he carried the grants to be sealed.

Don

Don Lopez, who till then had been greatly edified by his discourse, began to exclaim violently against so exorbitant an imposition. "Bless me! said the secretary, mighty calmly, what do you complain of? Why it is not more than the amount of the two first years income, do you think that too much for the certainty of so considerable a provision for life; where will you find such another bargain? Here you are made easy for the remainder of your days, and you hesitate at giving a little towards the support of the poor; perhaps not the thirtieth part of your income, for thank heaven you seem likely to enjoy your living for half a century at least."

"I never supposed, replied Don Lopez, to have had this grant for nothing, I was sufficiently informed of that beforehand, but is it reasonable that his lordship, in order to provide for the poor, should reduce me to a state of poverty myself, as he seems willing to do by requiring a thousand ducats of me; a thousand ducats! I neither have such a sum, nor ever had; and ——" "Why then prythee friend, said the secretary, interrupting him hastily, why did you come here in search of livings? Did

you not know that they are given only to the rich, as being the best able to pay for them. If this is the case I am afraid you will find yourself supplanted by a young court abbot, with whom I laid a wager the other day of three thousand ducats, that he would have a living before he was three months older, and I am certain that so great is the love our good bishop bears the poor, that was he to hear of this wager, he would instantly withdraw his grant and confer it on that man, but I scorn such mean artifices and leave them to be practised by a king's confessor or the valet de chambre of a prime minister."

This speech of the secretary's had the desired effect on Don Lopez. The fear of seeing himself supplanted in so considerable a living, of which he had thought himself absolutely sure, made him ready to comply with ever thing. But one circumstance embarrassed him greatly, which was, his not being master of above one half of the sum, and that he was not sure whither the secretary would wait a while for the rest. However he made his case known to him, but the honest go-between would not hearken to any thing under the full sum,

sum, till he offered him notes on some of the most considerable bankers in Lisbon, which he at length accepted and made him out his grant.

Our new incumbent had now nothing more at heart than to acquaint his benefactor Don Alvar of his lucky promotion, and accordingly wrote him a letter of thanks for all his care and friendship, and the kind endeavours he had used to procure him advancement, desiring him to give himself no farther trouble on this latter head, as it had pleased providence to provide for him already in an handsome manner. The good doctor upon the receipt of this letter, waited on the bishop of Coimbra to return him thanks for the kind promises he had made him, in behalf of Don Lopez, whom he had recommended to him. "I am very glad," replied the bishop, "to hear such good news, certainly the bishop of Leira must be greatly changed, to give away livings for nothing, since it has been his constant practice for above these fifteen years to dispose of them only to the best bidder." "It may be so, my lord," replied Don Alvar, "all that I know about the matter is, that the priory he has just bestowed on Don Lopez, belongs to

the abbey of St. Victor, of which his lordship is abbot."

"Nay, if that is the case, replied the bishop, I am afraid poor Don Lopez will stand in need of my protection yet, for you must know that the court has nominated the bishop of Leira to that abbey (the revenues of which are under sequestration) only to secure a payment for his creditors, and farthermore has desired the pope not to grant him any bulls, to punish him for the simonies he has already been guilty of, and to prevent him from committing any more for the future. You see by this that the nomination to livings, dependant on that abbey, does not lie in the bishop of Leira, but in the monks, and consequently that the grant he has made to Don Lopez must be absolutely void. However, as you interest yourself in this affair, I shall immediately write to Lisbon to have it cleared up, I have some friends there who will take a pleasure in informing themselves of every thing relating to this living."

In the mean time, Don Lopez, after having left his ducats behind him at Lisbon, returned to Coimbra with his certificates, and immediately on his arrival

val waited upon his friend the doctor, to whom he caused himself to be introduced under the title of the prior of *Caballos*. Don Alvar complimented him on his new dignity, and after having regaled him in an elegant manner, took him with him to the bishop, to whom he had first recommended him. The conversation turned upon the bishop of Leira, whom Don Lopez extolled to the skies; "I am very glad, said the bishop of Coimbra, to hear you thus praise your benefactor, it is a sign of a generous and grateful heart: but seignor Don Lopez, you are not so very much obliged to this prelate as you seem to imagine, for I have just been informed, that the living to which he has nominated you is not vacant, the incumbent being a young man who is still alive, and in perfect good health."

A thunderbolt would not have had a greater effect on Don Lopez, than this speech of the bishop's. The shame and indignation at seeing himself the dupe of a man who had so imposed upon him by his hypocrisy, deprived him a while of speech, and almost of sense. The good bishop, perceiving his confusion, began to suspect that his brother of Leira had

played him some worse trick, and in order to recover him from his dejection promised to assist him with all his interest. "Take courage, Don Lopez, said he, with an air and tone that had nothing of hypocrisy in it, you have a generous protector in Don Alvar, I shall pay a proper regard to his recommendation, and you may depend on the first good living that falls within my gift."

These obliging assurances somewhat recovered our licentiate from his perplexity. He returned the bishop a thousand thanks for his goodness, and the conversation was turn'd on a different topic; to put disagreeable reflections out of his head. When they had taken their leaves of the bishop, he began to relate the whole of his adventure to Don Alvar, begging his advice how to act in the case.

"Why you can do nothing at all, reply'd the prudent doctor; when once a bishop has thrown off the mask, as this has done, it is a folly for private persons to think of bringing him back to his duty. You have acted a fool's part in pretending to buy a living, and the bishop of Leira has made you smart for it, by selling you one that did not belong to him.

You

You have met with no more than what you deserve."

"That may be, replied Don Lopez, I might be a fool perhaps, but he is not less a knave for making me pay so dear for my folly." "Would to heaven," said the doctor, with a sigh, he was the only one! Believe me Don Lopez, added he, the best and only method you can take, is to recall your notes if it is not already too late, for as to your money, you must never expect to see that again. Profit by this accident, and be more upon your guard for the future against appearances." "That I shall, replied Lopez, tho' it was the pope himself." "You will act very wisely in so doing," said Don Alvar, for he is a man as well as others."

C H A P. VI.

A stratagem of the Licentiate's to avoid paying the tax imposed on him
A convent-visitation. What passed there.

THIS story of D. Lopez was followed by several others much in the same taste, which my uncle took great pleasure

in relating to me, so heavily did the patriarchal tax lye at his stomach. Finding him in such a grievous taking I offered to return to the manor-house and endeavour to procure some abatement in the sum. "That is a good thought enough, said my uncle, but I have just hit upon a better; I will send his lordship as a ballance to the account he has been pleased to favour me with, another of the expence I have been at in providing for his mules and horses. and we shall see which of us two can best swell his articles."

I had complaisance enough to appear pleased with his project, which he directly put in execution; but, good heavens! what a scene of exaction was here! I know not whether it proceeded from revenge or avarice, but every single truss of straw in my uncle's account stood the bishop in at least twelve crusades. In short the honest Licentiate had so well managed his calculations in the several articles, that on the ballance he brought his lordship in debt to him upwards of twenty ducats.

With this curious account I set out for the manor-house, where I arrived about four o'clock. The patriarch who had

had been at table ever since noon was not yet arisen, but was regaling himself with another bottle of greek wine, and would not have quitted this occupation but an account of the visit which he was to pay to the nuns of the convent, which my uncle Don Antonio had been telling me of. Desirous of being a witness to what passed, I accompanied him thither; at first I was refused entrance, it being the prelate's orders that no one should be admitted; but having mingled among his officers, I overcame that obstacle and gained admission.

As he had sent word to the community to be ready against his arrival, we found all the nuns assembled in the parlour to receive him at his entrance. But it is hardly possible to describe the surprise they shewed at the sight of the reverend patriarch. The poor girls, who had formed such an idea of him in their own minds, as we are wont to do of things we have heard much talk about and never seen, were astonished when they beheld his diminutive and grotesque figure. Some tittered under their veils, others turned away their faces, not daring to look at him, and kept their eyes fixed on the ground, not so much thro'

modesty, as the fear of laughing in his face; others again wholly unable to contain themselves, ran away the instant he made his appearance.

This scene was not more diverting to me, than it was mortifying to the patriarch. He flew into a violent rage against the poor girls whom he declared to be all heretics, that had no respect for the episcopal dignity; he ordered those to be sent for back who had retired, and threatened with excommunication any one who should have the insolence to laugh again; after this he read them a long lecture on the dignity of the episcopal function, and laboured greatly to prove that bishops were the immediate successors of the apostles. I should have been better pleased had he proved them to be as strict imitators of them likewise, but this was rather too knotty a point, and liable to too many contradictions.

After he ended his harangue he began to fall foul again of his audience, whom he said had given him great reason to be displeased with them, he accused the prioress with permitting her nuns to read bad books. They read your grace's, replied the prioress with great respect, and

I never supposed that that would be imputed as a crime to them; oh, as to mine, said the prelate, very modestly, they cannot read better, they are the very quintessence of religion and morality, my writings are such as you have scarcely met with the equal of hitherto, nor perhaps ever may again. If you had never read no other, you would not have been so rebellious as you are, I teach nothing but implicit obedience and nonresistance. Your grace's observation is just, answered the prioress, accordingly we pay the strictest observance to the rules of which your illustrious predecessors have laid down for us from time immemorial. My predecessors replied the patriarch might act as they pleased while they were alive, I shall teach what I think proper; and we, my lord, rejoined the prioress, shall believe what we think proper, there is the same liberty for both parties, it is a right that every one has a claim to in matters of novelty. What, replied the patriarch hastily, you look upon me then as an innovator? Your grace, answered the prioress, has just been pleased to tell us that you would teach what you thought proper; we have been always accustomed to look upon the principles of religion

ligion as fixed and not matters of fancy, and therefore think it our duty to guard against all such who know no other rules than their own whims. Ha ha! replied the patriarch, you take the teacher upon you I think, pray how long have women set up for being bishops? Ever since bishops, my lord, answered the prioress, have become women.

These spirited and pertinent answers galled the bishop to such a degree, that he could hardly keep his temper, and seemed far from being satisfied with his visit, and to punish the nuns for their supposed heresy, he refused them his patriarchal blessing, telling them moreover, that they would incur as many excommunications as they should read bad books. Nevertheless his anger was not so violent as to prevent him from taking part of a magnificent collection which was served up to him, in which he found the wine to be truly catholic. Thus ended the patriarch's visitation; and he returned to the manor-house, where a warm room and a large fire were prepared to refresh him after his evangelical fatigues.

I laid hold on this opportunity to see the proper officer relating to the business

I came about, and presented him with the account which my uncle had sent by me, at which he exclaim'd as violently as the honest Licentiate had done the day before at the patriarch's demand. Tho' in truth he had only served him in his own coin. All that I could get from the officer at this time was, that he would speak to the patriarch about it, but we heard no more from him; for the next day he set out on his visitation to the neighbouring towns and convents, where I supposed he reaped as little satisfaction as he had done with us.

C H A P VII.

Country missionaries. Ranucio follows them. His encounter by the way.

SOME days past without our seeing any company, which did not a little surprise me, as Don Antonio's house was the general rendezvous of the holy brotherhood. Upon asking him the reason of our being thus solitary, he informed me that they were all taken up in collecting their tithes: but that we should not be long without seeing them again. I was
beginning

beginning to be heartily tired of our solitude, when providence sent us four monks who came to set up at the parsonage-house for a night. Don Antonio, who thought he should be quit of them for a night's lodging, gave them so hearty a welcome, that when bed time came, it was with some difficulty they could find the way to their apartment. I forgave them this little piece of intemperance, in consideration of the amusement it afforded me. 'Tis certainly a curious sight to see a monk half seas over! I was in hopes they would have given us the same entertainment the next day, but they were very sober and modest, which surprised me not a little, however my wonder soon ceased upon hearing them tell my uncle that they were sent by the patriarch on a mission into his parish, that is to say, replied my uncle briskly, that you are come to live at free quarters here for a fortnight, in order to eat me out of house and home. But I must tell you that I am the patriarch's most humble servant and yours, and that I think it is enough that he has made me keep his horses while he was here, without sending me a set of asses to maintain likewise.

This

This frank speech of Don Antonio's, and the arch manner with which he accompanied, it gave me great pleasure, and no less mortification to the poor monks. It may be imagined they did not make a very long stay after such a declaration. Accordingly they set out immediately after dinner, shaking the dust off their feet in the manner of the apostles, and bestowing a thousand maledictions on the curate and his parish who only laughed at them for their pains, and took the road to Massilia, which was but a days journey distant, where they hoped to meet with a much better reception; and not without very just reason, for the curate of that place had been one of their own order, and retained no more of his primitive state than a great share of ignorance and a blind attachment to all of his fraternity.

Don Antonio could not have mortified me more sensibly than in sending the monks away as he did, considering how destitute we were of all company, and I could not forbear complaining to him of it: why, I thought, said he, that I should do you a pleasure in it, but since I have been mistaken, there is yet one way left to repair my error. These fathers are
going

going no farther than Massilia, where Castilmero will infallibly detain ^{him} for some time; it is that foolish fellow that you saw here a few days ago, who was so warm in the interests of prince Albanus's son as to fall to fifty cuffs about him. He is an intimate acquaintance of mine, and if you have a desire to see the mission you may be assured of an hearty welcome at his house. You will likewise have an opportunity of seeing your aunt Donna Victoria who lives thereabouts, and who will, I am persuaded, be very glad to see you. Perhaps too I myself may pay you a visit there in a little time.

The earnest desire I had to follow the missionaries would not permit ^{me} to hesitate long in accepting this offer, and as I was eager to be gone, I set out the next day, taking with me my uncle's man Ambrose to serve me as a guide. As I did not stay to breakfast before I began my journey, I stopped about eleven o'clock at a little village on the road in hopes of getting some refreshment, but as there was no such thing as an inn to be found in the place, we were obliged to push on to Atourega, where we did not arrive till between two and three o'clock in the afternoon.

My

My first care was to go into the kitchen to enquire what we could have to eat. Nothing, replied the landlord, I was greatly shocked at such an answer, especially as I saw at the same time victuals upon the spit. And pray, said I, who is this for? for two gentlemen, said he, that are waiting for their dinners.

I should have probably been satisfied with this answer, had not necessity, which is the mother of invention, inspired me with a lucky thought, which was to desire the two gentlemen to admit me to partake with them, and ordered the landlord to shew me into the room where they were, my presence seemed to throw the two travellers into some confusion and I felt myself struck in an unaccountable manner at the sight of them. One appeared to be a man of about fifty, and the other near twenty. The surprising beauty of the latter made so forcible an impression on me, that I almost forgot the occasion of my coming amongst them. The old gentleman, who probably saw with some uneasiness the great notice I took of his companion, roused me, by asking what I would please to have with them. But how great was my astonishment when I
knew

knew him by his voice to be the monk Pancraccio. Mercy on us! my venerable father, cried I, is it you I see in this disguise? Pancraccio, who was doubtless desirous to keep himself concealed, pretended not to know me, and gave me to understand, that he supposed I mistook him for another person, no, no, said I, I am not mistaken good seignor Pancraccio, we have seen one another a little too nearly to be mistaken, however you have nothing to fear either from my curiosity or my indiscretion, the disguise I now see you in, gives me to suppose that you are upon some scheme and I am not so imprudent to desire to know what you have an inclination to conceal. All that I have to request of you is, that you will be kind enough to admit me to your table.

The confusion in which I saw the two cavaliers, confirmed me in my suspicion that the monk had met with some adventure since I had left Lisbon, I was nettled to the quick at their silence which I took for a refusal to my request, and turning to the monk I reproached him in the severest terms for his hard ill-nature, declaring that I would be revenged on him by making it my first business at
my

my return home, to put a stop to the numerous alms that our family bestowed on his convent.

“ Hold seignor Ranucio, replied he, stopping me as I was going to fling out of the room, you are intruded, and not without reason, but forgive this seeming rudeness in me, and impute it wholly to the surprise occasioned by the unexpected meeting with you in this place. The disguise in which you see this gentleman and myself, may convince you that we desire to be concealed from all the world. But since it has pleased fortune that we should be discovered, we cannot but esteem ourselves happy to have fallen into the hands of a man of honour, and one who has always expressed a compassion for that state of life, from which we are now escaped. Yes, charming Constantia, continued the monk, addressing himself to the young gentleman, you see in this young cavalier a person of the greatest honor perhaps this day in Portugal, a person who so far from divulging our adventure, will be the first to conceal it and heartily compassionate both the one and the other.”

It would be difficult to express my astonishment at finding the person
who

who was with Pancraccio, to be a nun. Her excessive beauty had made a strong impresson on me at first sight, and I could not help thinking that it must be a person of more than common stamp; but it did not once enter into my imagination that she had worn a coif. But if I was surpris'd at the oddity of this adventure, Pancraccio was much more so at the manner in which she answered him. "What then, base impostor, said she, giving him a look full of fury and indignation, are you not the person you made me believe you was, the marquis of Bellicera, uncle to Don Henriquez! O heavens! is it possible you should have dared to make use of that respectable name to seduce me to take such a step as this?" "Forgive, fairest creature, replied Pancraccio, the artifice which love obliged me to make use of: that love which yourself inspired, and which would not permit me to see you in a condition that violence and despair first drove you to embrace, and in which you passed your life in bitterness and sorrow, without using every means in my power for your deliverance."

"Traitor replied Constantia, hast thou the insolence to remain in my presence

sence after this avowal of thy crime! is it not enough that thou hast prevailed on me by the basest of all deceits to abandon the retreat whither my misfortunes had driven me, but thou must add this new injury, and affront me with the declaration of a passion as infamous as it is detestable? Credulous fool that I was, I thought thy only motives had been pity and compassion, and the desire of uniting me once more to the dear object of all my wishes. Alas! I find now that thou wast acting only for thy wretched self. Alas! unhappy creature that I am, what had I to expect from a villain who makes his sport alike of heaven and of man?"

She accompanied these last words with a flood of tears, while Pancraccio made use of every tender argument he could think of to calm her rage. I was so shocked at this scene, and so scandalized at such a proceeding in a man of his profession that I was on the point of leaving the room and continuing my journey, when reflecting that the monk, whose brutal passion sparkled in his eyes might possibly proceed to greater extremes, I resolved to stay and protect the unhappy lady

lady from his insults, and if possible, deliver her out of his hands.

I was ruminating on this design when dinner was brought in. I immediately sat down to table and pressed the two false cavaliers to do the same, but one was so full of grief and the other so taken up with his passion, that they could not listen to me. As for me who knew nothing more grievous at that time than hunger, I fell to, till such time as it should please them to keep me company. If I was greatly diverted with the ridiculous languishments and sighs of the enamoured monk, I was no less afflicted with the grief and despair in which I beheld the unhappy fair one. Imagine to yourself, a young creature, extremely beautiful, who finds herself in the hands of an old treacherous monk, without knowing what will become of her. Such was the situation of the fair Constantia, which would doubtless have been considerably worse but for our lucky meeting. The name of Henriquez which she frequently repeated amidst her tears and sobbings, excited my curiosity, and made me desire to be informed what connections she had with that gentleman.

“ Alas!

“ Alas ! sir, said she, 'tis to him that I owe all my misfortunes, he was the first and the only author of them. — But was that gentleman known to you sir ?” continued she. I replied, “ that I had some time ago been intimately connected with a gentleman whose name was Don Henriquez de Bellicera, who had suddenly disappeared from Lisbon, and had not been yet heard of.” “ It is the same sir, replied Constantia, and you see before you the person for the love of whom he was obliged to fly his country ; since you have been friends sir, let me intreat you for the sake of that friendship, to protect an unhappy woman, for whose sake he would not hesitate to hazard his own life.” “ It would be the last degree of injustice, madam, answered I, to refuse your request. But oblige me so far as to inform me, what share he had in your misfortunes, and how they were brought about. I do not ask this out of an idle curiosity, but the knowledge of it will be absolutely necessary to direct me in the manner in which I am to serve you. Constantia made some difficulty at first to comply with my request, but the need she had of my assistance, getting the better of her self love, she related to me at large
the

history of her life, as the reader will find in the ensuing chapter.

C H A P. VIII.

The story of Constantia and Don Henriquez.

DON Manuel de Montoya my father having quitted the army retired with my brother to one of his estates in order to retrieve his affairs, which had been greatly disordered during the war: tho' I was then but a child, I felt a sensible uneasiness at this kind of disgrace as it appeared to me, but what gave me still more concern, was the evident partiality my parents shewed in favour of Don Alphonso my brother. He received all the marks of their favour and indulgence, while I was looked upon only as an obstacle to the fortune of this darling son, and in hopes that I might one day remove it of my own accord, they left me behind them in the convent of St. Salvador in Lisbon, flattering themselves that by being deprived of the pleasures of the world, and the company of my family and friends, and having only the

nuns

nuns to converse with, I should by degrees take a liking to their life and put on the veil. Accordingly they suffered me to remain there for ten years, at the expiration of which time they made their appearance again in Lisbon, and in a more brilliant manner than ever.

They did not affect this grandeur so much to indulge any pride of their own, as for the sake of their son Alphonso, for whom they hoped by this means to procure one of the best alliances in the kingdom, and to make this still more sure, they industriously spread abroad a report that I was going to renounce the world and embrace a monastic life. In private there were no endeavours omitted that they thought most likely to persuade me to their lure; caresses, solicitations from the nuns, and my own relations, presents, frequent visits and remonstrances on the happiness and delights of a religious life, were all made use of, and my brother was not a little assiduous in labouring to persuade me that I was born for such a life, and that it would suit me the best of any, but unhappily his endeavours produced the very contrary effect to what was intended.

One day that he came to pay me a visit and give me his customary exhortations, he brought with him Don Henriquez de Bellacina, with whom he then lived in the most friendly intimacy. This young gentleman took a liking to me at first sight; and I, on my side, felt something for him that I had never experienced before. As he was your friend, I need not detain you with a description of his person and manners, nor of the thousand tender arts he was master of to conquer a virgin's heart. Mine, alas! could not hold out against them, but yielded itself a willing conquest to the amiable qualities of the youthful Henriquez. I gave myself up without reserve to my growing fondness, and took a greater dislike than ever to a religious life, and the arguments made use of to persuade me to embrace it.

I took such care to conceal the impression that this young gentleman had made on my heart, that it was not in the least perceived by any one of my own family or in the monastery. Even my brother was so little suspicious of any thing of that nature, that he brought him with him almost every time he visited me, but Don Henriquez was so impatient to dis-

discover his sentiments to me, that in a little time he took the liberty of coming alone.

What made him more hasty to take this step, was a pretty smart conversation which passed one day in his presence, between my brother and myself on the old subject, in which he told me that my parents were taking the proper measures to oblige me to put on the veil. Alarmed at this, my lover resolved to seize the first opportunity of declaring his sentiments to me, and make me an offer of his services. Accordingly the very next day, he came by himself to visit me; he no sooner saw me, than addressing me with a deep sigh, "Well, madam, said he, you are then on the point of falling a victim to your own complaisance, the ambition of your parents, and the establishment of a brother's fortune. Heavens! is it for a person like you to make such a sacrifice? You for whom any one who had my eyes and my heart, would gladly sacrifice themselves. No, adorable Constantia, I must oppose such a resolution: perfections like your's were never made to be bury'd in a cloister, leave that to those unhappy ones of your sex, whom want of beauty

or the gifts of fortune, drives to such extremities, and do not you by so rash a step destroy for ever the peace and happiness of the most tender of lovers."

Tho' I had many times before read in the eyes of Don Henriquez the story of his love, yet I affected great surprise at this open declaration, but I found it too agreeable to shew any marks of resentment at it, I found that I could not reject his homage without betraying my own sentiments, however I thought it best to dissemble them for some time, and affecting an air of gayety, "Seignor, said I, when Don Alphonso first procured me the honor of your acquaintance, he introduced you as one of his friends, I am sorry to say that I do not find you act up to that character. You cannot be ignorant of the motives that induce my parents to press me to a religious life, and it is but ill requiting the trust reposed in you, to throw obstacles in the way of your friend's fortune; you know as well as me that it depends on my leaving the world, and here you have made a declaration that tends to bring me back to it, were I simple enough to give any belief to you." "Ah, madam, said Don Henriquez,

riquez, interrupting me, can you then suspect me of the blackest of all perfidies? I betray your brother! I feign a passion I do not feel! For heaven's sake do more justice to my honor. Know a little better the power of your own charms, and then you will own that no heart can be proof against them; mine is so deeply penetrated by them, that I am determined to make your condition more happy than it is at present."

"It was doubtless with this view, replied I sneeringly, that you was so very pressing with me in the presence of my brother, to embrace the life he proposed to me. It is a very singular way of manifesting love; to use every endeavour to deprive one self of the beloved object for ever." Is it possible, said Don Henriquez, that your heart will suffer you to impute to me as a crime, a step that I was urged to by the most ardent passion? I advised you it is true, to comply with the desires of your family, but had I acted otherwise before your brother, would it not have been the surest way of preventing me from ever seeing you again, or using my endeavours to free you from the cruel tyranny that is exercised over you? I have

now gained the confidence of a man who would otherwise have had it in his power to frustrate all my intentions."

"And of what service, replied I, can be the confidence of a person who will naturally oppose you to the utmost, the moment he perceives your true drift, and the design you have to overturn his schemes of fortune? Be advised by me, Don Henriquez, and bestow your services in another place where they may be attended with less fatal consequences to us both; for was I to answer your passion, my parents would infallibly oppose an alliance, which, tho' very honorable for me, would intirely frustrate their designs."

"That must be try'd, madam, replied Don Henriquez, therefore let me request your leave to sound them on this head: good heavens! what would I not do to save you from the violence they intend you? Even tho' I should have no other satisfaction than that of procuring you the liberty of disposing of yourself, I should think all my pains overpaid."

How generous soever this offer of Don Henriquez appeared to me, I did not think it proper to accept of it at that time, on the contrary, I enjoined him

him a strict silence in relation to what had passed between us, and to engage his compliance, set before him the unreasonableness of my parents, who, should they come to hear of our interview, would not desire a better pretence to debar me from ever speaking to any stranger again. I represented this to him in such a light, that he promised me never to suffer the least hint to escape him, and took his leave of me with a thousand protestations of love and offers of service.

The extreme desire my parents had to see me fixed in my choice, suffered them not to remain long absent from me, accordingly I had a visit from them soon after, in which I had to undergo a new attack, and of a more disagreeable and dangerous kind, as Don Henriquez, who omitted no opportunity of seeing me, was with them; I was greatly afraid lest his presence should have made me betray my heart, and give them room to suspect that my resistance was owing to a secret inclination for him, but on the other hand, I found myself animated by the sight of that lovely youth, with double resolution to with-

stand the artifices and obstinacy of those who would seduce me.

After having suffered them to display all the religious rhetoric that worldly people are wont to make use of on such occasions, I began in my turn to talk of the holiness and purity required in a religious life, to which I said no one ought to aspire without a particular call. I added, that it was tempting God, to enter upon such a life without having first made a strict tryal of one's heart, and that such a tryal was not the work of a day, that the acquaintance I had with a monastic life, had convinced me that there were very few truly religious in it: that if they were absolutely determined upon my entering into that state, I should be glad they would allow me a sufficient time for my probation, as I could not help owning that I did not at present find any inclination to pass my days in a cloister; but that we were to despair of nothing; that God had his minutes, and gave that at one time which he refused at another: and that if I did not at last find myself properly fitted to embrace the state they recommended to me, I hoped to find in
their

their goodness a completion for my own defects.

This speech had such an effect upon them, that they ceased pressing me any farther for that time. My father contented himself with saying, "that since my vocation was not yet come, it would be proper to wait till it did." However, his age and experience, which was not easily to be imposed upon, made him suspect that the violent aversion I shewed to a convent proceeded from no other cause than some one's having found the means to please me.

I was tolerably handsome, and of an age to inspire love, and to be inspired with it myself. He therefore made a strict enquiry, whether I had ever received any of those visits which are so apt to breed disorders in a monastery, but was assured that I had seen no one but my brother; not satisfied with this, he interrogated my brother concerning what past at those visits, who owned to him, that he had often been to see me in company with a young gentleman of his acquaintance, who was so far from being any obstacle to the family's designs, that he had even joined him in

his exhortations to me to embrace a religious life. —

“ So much the worse, son, reply’d Don Manuel, such advice as this does not appear natural in the young gentlemen of our age, who, for the most part, think of nothing but galantry and the pleasures of the world. Don Henriquez is an accomplished cavalier, and I do not in the least doubt but that he sides with your sister, and that this is the chief reason of her proving so refractory to my will. Love, son, insinuates itself into a convent under more than one form, it enters under the priest’s robes, and the monk’s frock. I leave you to judge then, if coming in the shape of an handsome young fellow, it will be long suing for admittance. It is certainly as I tell you, therefore endeavour to get out of your friend what I want to know; women are generally too much upon their guard in love affairs, there’s no coming easily at their real sentiments. Young fellows, on the contrary, are, for the most part, so very full of their own merit, that they take all opportunities of publishing their conquests, consequently you will
meet

meet with no great difficulty in gathering all you desire to know from Don Henriquez. Go then immediately to him, and if you find my suspicions to be true, I leave you to take such measures as are most agreeable to the honor of your family, and your own interest."

Don Alphonso, finding his ambition and avarice roused by this speech, instantly quitted my father, and went in search of his friend, and asked him with an air of confidence, what he thought of me, and my destination to a convent. Don Henriquez, who did not suspect the least artifice, answered him frankly, "that he thought me very amiable, and that it gave him the greatest uneasiness to see the persecutions I underwent, in order to make me renounce the world." "This is as much as to say, replied my brother hastily, that you love my sister, and have found means to make yourself beloved by her in return." "And supposing it should be so, answered Don Henriquez, what fault could you have to find with? My family is, I believe, good enough to pretend to an alliance with your's, and my own fortune is not so inconsiderable as to make

your parents suspect that I have any design upon their money."

Tho' nothing could be more moderate than this reply, yet Don Alphonso was offended at it, and whether he took it as a reproach meant to his own avaritious disposition, or that what his father had said to him had put him beside his reason, he made a quarrel of it with his friend. Henriquez, who was prudent, tho' brave, took no notice of many affronting things he said to him, but finding himself at length pushed to extremities, he lost all patience, and they both went out into the fields of St. Claire where they drew their swords. They had exchanged several thrusts when the son of the regidor of Lisbon, happening to pass that way, knew my brother, and seeing him hard pushed by Don Henriquez, ran to part them; in the doing which, ill fortune would have it that he received an unlucky thrust which laid him dead on the spot. This accident put a stop to the duel for the present, and each of them retired.

Don Henriquez had only time to write me a short billet, in which he acquainted me with what had happened, and then retired

retired in all haste to Tavora, the capital of the kingdom of Algarva. But, good heavens, what a consternation was mine at reading this fatal note! I instantly foresaw all the fatal consequences of that passion with which he had inspired me, nor was I long without feeling them in their full extent, for my father paid me a visit a few days afterwards, in which he loaded me with the most bitter reproaches, and concluded with telling me, "that it was his absolute determination that I should instantly take the veil."

The violent passion I saw him in, would not permit me to make him any denial, I therefore promised to do whatever he would have me. Indeed the loss of my dear Don Henriquez had thrown me into such despair, that I was wholly indifferent to every thing else in the world. My father was agreeably surprized at my resolution, and to fortify me in it, put me under the direction of this worthy gentleman you see here, who described a religious life to me in the most holy and amiable lights. I leave you to judge, sir, how well his practice agrees with his doctrine.

" I am

" I am not at a loss, madam, answered I, what judgment to form of those kind of exhortations, they may be compared to those which are made use of by soldiers, to give others an high idea of the excellence and charms of their profession, in order to intice them to inlist with them. I have had an instance of this before in the very same reverend gentleman, who left no stone unturned to engage me into his order. He has plaid the same part with you, and this day's adventure has taught me what to think of the innocence and purity of his vows."

" Alas! replied Constantia, I was quite ignorant of them at that time. All that I have to say is, that the loss of my lover, and the violent temper of my father, determined me to comply with every thing they asked of me. I therefore voluntarily buried myself alive at the flower of my age. From that time I broke off all visits, and applied myself wholly to a life of devotion and contemplation. Nor did I see the face of any man except this Pancraccio, who was my ghostly director, and him only at the hours of confession; but this correspondence, which ought to have been wholly sacred

sacred to the purposes of religion, seemed only to give me a greater distaste to it, his conversation insensibly tended to stir up the latent sparks of love within my breast, and by continually talking to me of Don Henriquez, whom he pretended to have been acquainted with, and on whom he lavished the greatest encomiums, he made him appear more lovely to me than ever.

I was not long before I felt the fatal effects of this procedure. My exercises were now grown hateful to me, solitude, prayer, and silence became insupportable, and I longed to renew my commerce with the world. Alas! had my miseries stopt here! but punishments as well as sins always follow one another. I now conceiv'd an entire aversion to a religious life, I passed whole nights and days in lamenting my unhappy fate, and seeking means for deliverance. Sometimes I accused Don Henriquez, to whose precipitate flight I owed all my misfortunes. Sometimes I called upon him to return to put an end to all my sufferings.

I was in this cruel situation when one day Pancraccio, to whom I had imparted all my sufferings, came to acquaint me that the marquis de Bellacina was just arrived

arrived at Lisbon, and desired to be admitted to see me. This was only then a trick of this impostor's to bring me into a scheme that he was meditating; the better to conceal his artifice, he pretended that the marquis dare not appear abroad by day for fear of being assassinated by the Regidor's people, who already knew of his arrival, and was determined to sacrifice him to the manes of his son. In consequence of which, he begged I would allow of an interview with him by night.

As I was far from suspecting my director of any deceit, I readily consented to what he required, and when night came went down into the parlour, where I was told a gentleman was waiting to speak with me. After the first compliments, the pretended marquis told me that he brought me news from his nephew Don Henriquez, who begged me to be assured of the continuance of his love and esteem.

“ The esteem your nephew is pleased to have for me, my lord, answered I, does me great honor, and I should be happy to preserve it all my life, but I cannot say the same with respect to his love. The step I have taken since his
depar-

departure has put it out of my power to listen to any thing more of that kind, and I have too high a notion of Don Henriquez' honor to suppose that he would desire to engage me in a criminal commerce. But tho' religion forbids me to receive any farther testimonies of his passion, yet it cannot prevent me from having a tender sense of those marks of his remembrance, and interesting myself warmly in every thing that relates to him."

The counterfeit marquis pretended to be greatly surprized at what he heard, and cry'd out in a transport, "Is it then possible, madam, that you have made your vows? Good God, what a stroke for the amorous Henriquez! What will become of him when he hears this fatal news? Alas, it will cost him his life! And could you, madam, take such a step without reflecting on the fatal consequences it must bring to him? He had given me to understand that you had flattered him with some hopes, in consequence of which I came hither to solicit his pardon, and to see your parents in order to get their consent to an alliance which he has never ceased to languish after since the first time

time he had the honor of being acquainted with you."

"I will not pretend to conceal from you, my lord, answered I, that I should have esteemed myself happy and honored in such an union. The sentiments with which your nephew had inspired me, were too virtuous and pure to occasion a blush, but my unhappy fate did not permit me to enjoy that satisfaction. A father's absolute will has got the better of my inclination, and I have given my heart to God, as I was deprived of the only object which, after him, appeared worthy of my love."

I found by the answer the marquis made me that he was far from being pleased with this declaration. At that time I imputed the discontent that appeared in his countenance, to his finding it impossible to make me his niece: but this day has discovered to me the true reason: however, he quitted me in an hasty manner, and I returned to my cell, from whence I did not stir till the next day, passing all that night in the most melancholy reflections, occasioned by this new adventure. I reproached myself for my too hasty compliance, and for not having waited a little longer for

Don

Don Henriquez' return. I blamed my father for his unnatural severity in thus sacrificing my peace and happiness to his ambition and avarice. In a word, I said and thought every thing that may be supposed from one in my unhappy circumstances.

Early the next day I sent for Pancraccio, in hopes of meeting with some consolation from his advice and admonitions: I laid open my whole heart to him, he appeared touched with my misfortunes, but instead of applying the salutary steel to eradicate my disorder at once, he acted like those surgeons, who, by flattering their patient's weakness, increase the malady. "Alas! cry'd he, I know but too well what it is to be deprived for ever of what we love, I feel it every day, but you, madam, have this advantage over me, that your sufferings admit of relief. Thirty years past in a religious life, render it impossible for me to recall a step that the heat and folly of youth hurried me into. Alas! if I was but like you in the second year of my profession only! what miseries should I have spared myself; but unhappily for me, my engagement, tho' the effect of despair,

despair, was voluntary, and is now become indissoluble."

How, replied I, can we recall our vows when they are the effect of force and constraint? "Doubtless, madam, continued he, and it is no small comfort to you under your misfortunes, that you are the mistress of putting an end to them when you please: nevertheless, I would not advise you to have recourse to those measures, till no others will do. There are certain formalities to be observed on those occasions, and a thousand difficulties offer themselves to such an attempt; in short, it appears hardly feasible to extricate oneself with the least appearance of honor, after once having made profession; but there are shorter and surer ways of going to work, which I would gladly instruct you in, were I certain that you found it absolutely impossible for you to lead a monastic life."

These last words considerably allay'd the anxiety I had been under from the marquis' visit, and the revived remembrance of my dear Henriquez. I no longer thought myself unhappy, since I found that it was in my own power to put an end to my miseries; so true it is
that

that the misery and happiness of mankind are often the mere work of their own imaginations. The death of my father which happened at this time seemed to crown all my wishes; and I should play the hypocrite, was I to pretend to say that the loss of a parent who had always treated me in so unnatural a manner sat very heavy at my heart, in short I soon got over the first concern the news of a parent's death must naturally give to every dutiful child, and thought of nothing but renewing my commerce with the world.

A second visit which I received from the supposed marquis of Bellacina completed my design. He came to take his leave of me, and to let me know that he was upon his return to Tavora. I was greatly surprized that he mentioned nothing of Don Henriquez to me at this interview, which was in all probability to be the last, and therefore began the subject myself; but he always seemed desirous to turn the conversation, at which my love took the alarm, and I could not help asking him if he had heard lately from his nephew. He replied with great coldness that he hoped he was very well, but that he had not heard from him since

since the letter he wrote to inform him of the way of life I had embraced. Perhaps his silence, continued he, may be the object of the uneasiness this cruel piece of news must have cost him. However I am about to carry him some that I hope will comfort him. His pardon which I have procured him, and a rich and beautiful heiress who is offered him for a wife, will, I flatter myself, make him forget the loss of your heart.

A stroke of a poniard could not have given me greater surprise than this speech of the marquis. As soon as I was come a little to myself, I told him that he must certainly have a very mean opinion of Don Henriquez's love and constancy, to suppose that he would so easily forget me. However rash may be the step I have taken, continued I, it is such as there were no means left to evade in my circumstances, besides I am not so deeply engaged but that I may retract my vows, however I shall be very cautious how I think of any such thing for the sake of a man, so changeable as you have described Don Henriquez to be.

" Ah! madam, cried the impostor, how easily might you have fixed him, had you but given him the least hopes
of

of possessing you, but what likelihood of it was there after the engagements you had entered into? Even supposing it was possible for you to break them, it would require a great deal of time and trouble, and, I will not conceal it from you, all his family are very urgent with him to settle, we have no heir but him, I myself am possessed of a very considerable fortune, all which I shall leave to him, and I must own I should be glad to see a probability of successors to it, his friends are therefore unanimously resolved to get him a wife as soon as possible. I must own I could wish it were his first love, what he has told me of your virtue and accomplishments, and what I have seen of you myself added to the noble family you spring from, and the violent passion he has for you would make us all greatly happy in an alliance with you were it any way practicable.

This flattering speech and the hopes of once more seeing my dear Henriquez, made me lend a ready ear to the voice of seduction; I lost all power of resisting the tempter, whom I thought to be as honest as he appeared, however I kept within the bounds of decency, and contented my self with requesting him
to

defer his journey for a few days, till I should be able to determine what I had to do. The next morning I sent in all haste for Pancraccio, to whom I requested all that had passed, little imagining that I was acquainting the villain with what he knew better than myself.

“I see, said he, that your love for Don Henriquez is one of those passions which tho’ we may resist for a while, yet it is impossible wholly to overcome; all that I could say to you therefore on this head would only serve to irritate it the more, so I think the best advice that can be given you is to follow without scruple the dictates of your heart. It is the heart that determines in all things; yours has all along been towards the world, from which it is evident, that you never had a due call to a religious life, consequently the engagements you have entered into are null and void, this is agreeable to the opinion of our greatest casuists, you are therefore at liberty to use all means of delivering yourself from this state of confinement. This indeed might be done in a judicial way, but to speak freely, I think that would be too hazardous for you to attempt, for the instant that either the community or your
own

own friends and relations should get the least hint of your intending to retract your vows, they would instantly confine you in the prison of the convent and bar you from all possibility of stirring in the affair or obtaining a release of your vows.

To this discourse he added a lively picture of the severities exercised in monasteries over those of either sex, who are formed to entertain such notions. I had myself been witness to some of these which made me apprehensive of sharing the same treatment. The perfidious Pancraccio did all in his power to keep up my spirits, and animate me to his purpose: "Be comforted, madam, said he, your case is not so desperate as you may imagine; there might a surer and more speedy way be found out to relieve you, provided you had a person to confide in, who was devoted to your service. Don Henriquez has an aunt, who lives a few miles from Lisbon. She is a widow lady, remarkable for her devotion; her established reputation will cover you from all censure for leaving the convent. You have nothing to do but feign yourself indisposed, and that charitable lady, under pretence of taking you out for the

air, will carry you to her house where you will be at full liberty to procure a release from your vows."

As this project agreeably flattered my love, and I had not the least distrust of the sincerity of the adviser, I gave without hesitation into the snare, and the next morning took to my bed, where I counterfeited sickness so admirably that every one thought me what I seemed. I imposed in this manner on the whole community for above a week, at the end of which time a physician whom Pancraccio had gained over to his interest, told the abbess that there were no other means to recover me but by allowing me to take the country air.

While the good abbess was deliberating with me upon the most proper place for that purpose, we had a visit from Donna Hortensia de Mascarrannez, which was the name of the pretended aunt of Don Henriquez whom Pancraccio had spoken to me of, and whom he now accompanied into the parlour. I do not think that the world ever produced two more hypocritical countenances. The decent and modest deportment of the lady, joined to the most edifying manner of conversing, in which she was from time to time assisted by that impostor

impostor, so effectually deceived both the abbess and myself, that it was agreed by us that I should go and pass a fortnight at her house in the country.

They gave us no time for reflections, for the good lady came that very afternoon in her coach and took me away to a very handsome house she had in town, which she said she only made use of when obliged by business to quit her retirement in the country. The next morning I rose betimes, being desirous to quit the town as privately as possible, and went to press Donna Hortensia to set out, but was answered that some affairs had unexpectedly fallen out the evening before, which would prevent her from going into the country for some days. However, said she, if you must absolutely be gone, I will offer you the company of my cousin, the marquis de Bellacina, to conduct you thither; he is a very well-bred gentleman, and, I believe has the honour of being known to you. He will undertake this office with a great deal of pleasure, and keep you company there, till I can have the opportunity of waiting on you myself."

This unlooked for delay threw me into a fresh dilemma; I ran a great risk

by remaining in Lisbon, and on the other hand, I thought it very indecent to trust myself alone upon a journey with a man. In this perplexity I had recourse to Donna Hortensia, whose advice I looked upon as the oracle of wisdom. She at first seemed to approve very much of my scruples, but afterwards removed them, by assuring me that I had nothing to fear from the marquis; "As to your relations, pursued she, I will not take upon me to answer for them, they doubtless know by this time of your having left the convent, and will leave nothing undone to find you out, therefore in my opinion the only way to elude their pursuits is to set out immediately. The gentleman whom I offer to you for a conductor is known to you, and is moreover, a man of that character, that you may go every where with him, and not be in the least fear of censure. However if you are apprehensive of being known upon the road, or that your reputation should suffer from being seen in the dress of our sex, as you must at all events quit that which you now wear, I would advise you to put on men's cloaths, which will effectually screen you both from the pursuit

pursuit of your friends, and the tongues of malicious people."

The counterfeit marquis, who came in while we were talking, approved greatly of this expedient, and I yielded to their opinions; accordingly we immediately sent for the dresses in which you now see us, and set out in a couple of post chaises on our journey, which we should without doubt have continued had not providence thrown you in our way.

This, sir, continued Constantia, is a short history of my life, and the adventures that brought me to this place. I leave you to judge what dangers your presence has delivered me from, for it is not to be doubted that this villain would have carried his horrible purpose to greater lengths, since he has had the impudence, even before you, to give way to his brutal transports. Do you then, sir, continued she, weeping bitterly, do you, sir, prove my protector and save me from the violence of this wicked ravisher; and, if possible, restore me either to my convent or my friends, I had rather experience a life of the greatest misery there, than be in the power of this abandoned miscreant, who thus joins sacrilege to the basest perfidy. Let

me conjure you to this act of generosity by the remembrance of your old friend Don Henriquez, by that complaisance which every gentleman has for our sex, and by the compassion which our holy religion should inspire you with, in behalf of a distressed christian virgin.

Tho' I did not see how I could well carry her back to Lisbon without running the risk of my own safety, yet I was so touched with compassion for her misfortunes, that I promised to comply with every thing she desired of me, and pressed her to take a little refreshment, as she would stand in need of a recruit of strength and spirits to prosecute the intended journey. This prevailed upon her to take a couple of eggs which happened to be in the house. As to Pancracio I despised him too much to give myself any trouble about him. However I observed that rage and disappointment were painted in his countenance, and he would doubtless have played me some sorry trick, had he not known me for a person that was very ready to return any insult; therefore finding he could do nothing better, he e'en put a good face upon the matter and began to eat likewise, while I plac'd myself again
at

at the table to induce Constantia to follow my example; and used all endeavours to dissipate her chagrin.

C H A P. IX.

Sequel of the story of Constantia and Don Henriquez.

OUR two gentlemen had just began to eat, when word was brought us that a young hermit who was just entered the inn, begged us to give him something for his dinner. Constantia ordered a chicken to be carried to him, which we imagined would rid us of him, but we were very much surprized to see him enter the room at the very instant. He had nothing of the monk about him, but the habit and a long beard. His fine large eyes, which were full of fire and vivacity, a skin of delicate whiteness, and a set of neat and beautiful features, added to an air of dignity and ease, plainly shewed him to be somewhat above those idle vermin who have recourse to the wretched artifice of a monkish frock to cover a life of poverty and laziness.

At entering the room, instead of saluting us as he should have done, he remained

fixed and motionless; his eyes which were rivetted on Constantia, plainly shewed that something more than ordinary passed within him; while those of Constantia, which were as earnestly fixed on him, seemed to speak no less on her side. They continued thus for some time, without uttering a word, at length, Constantia breaking silence, first asked him, "What was the reason of their looking so earnestly at each other." "Young gentleman, replied the hermit, I am ignorant of your reasons for looking at me so attentively, I did it because I fancy I am very well acquainted with your voice and features, and find a strong resemblance in them to a person who was once and ever will be dearer to me than life. An unforeseen accident tore me from her, and my greatest misfortune is, that I have not been able to get any account of her for upwards of three years that we have been separated. The continual uneasiness I have lived in upon her account has determined me to quit the kingdom of Algarva where I had taken refuge; and go in search of her to Lisbon at the peril of my life."

At these words Constantia could not forbear shewing marks of the greatest surprize

surprize and emotion; the agitation of her mind appeared visible in her face. The young hermit, who had never taken his eyes off her, quickly perceived it. “ You seem confus’d, sir, said he, have you ever heard speak of the person you so much resemble, or have you any interest in her?” “ Perhaps I may, reply’d Constantia, but before I satisfy you in that, do me the pleasure to inform me, if during your stay in Algarva, you have heard speak of the Count of Bellacina, on whose account I am under some uneasiness, the young gentleman is a relation of mine, and was obliged to quit Lisbon suddenly upon an affair of honor, and I have never been able to hear of him since his departure.”

This speech of Constantia so disconcerted the young hermit, that he remained without the power of answering for some moments, at length when he was recovered from his surprize, “ Sir, said he, I will not conceal from you that I am particularly acquainted with that gentleman; but before I enter into particulars, permit me to ask if there is no danger in declaring what I know concerning him, since very essential reasons oblige him to conceal himself; and the

lady whom he loves, and whom he has given me a charge to find out, would never forgive me if any accident should happen to him thro' my imprudence."

"You would be under no apprehension son, of that kind, reply'd I, did you know me, and especially the person who enquires after Don Henriquez." "Alas! reply'd the hermit sighing, my heart indicates the truth to me but too strongly, yet appearances are so much against me that ——— However, continued he, throwing himself at the feet of the young man in disguise, receive adorable Constantia, the homage of a man who has loved you too well not to know you by the tender sentiments with which you now inspire him. My eyes might perhaps deceive me, but the heart which is the surest interpreter of love, tells me assuredly, that you are the lovely object of whom I am in search. Heavens, was ever happiness equal to mine! After three tedious years of absence I have at length found her I love, and found her at a time that I the least expected it."

I cannot easily describe the surprize and confusion Constantia was in at seeing a monk for the second time at her feet,

feet, but I could perceive that the homage of this latter did not appear disagreeable to her. Pancraccio, who was present at this interview, could not forbear murmuring at the sight. "By the holy frock, said he, this girl seems born to inspire monks with love, even this little undertrapper of a hermit must say fine things to her; but by St. Francis he shall not have the fingering of her any more than myself." Thus did this insolent monk comfort himself for the miscarriage of his plot, by the hopes of seeing his supposed brother fail in his attempt as well as himself.

He had not, however, this satisfaction; for the young hermit, having thrown aside his beard, which had prevented us from knowing him at first sight, now convinced us that he was the real Count de Bellacina. Pancraccio was so confounded and terrified at this discovery, that he left the room without saying a word, and getting into his chaise, set off without knowing whether he was going. It was lucky for him that he acted in this manner, for had he stayed, and suffered any thing to escape him relating to his adventure, he would

certainly have met with the immediate punishment due to his crimes.

Constantia, Henriquez, and myself, were now left together: after having embraced my friend, I asked him the reason of so strange a disguise. "My dear friend, reply'd he, it is what you will not disapprove when I tell thee, that about three years ago I happened to kill the son of the regidor of Lisbon ——" "I know every thing relating to that affair, reply'd I, and that it occasioned your sudden departure." "It may be so, answered Don Henriquez, but you do not know, perhaps, that however excusable that accident was on my side, that I have not been able to obtain my pardon nor appear again at Lisbon, tho' it is now above three years since it happened. My banishment would have given me very little concern, added he, if the presence of my lovely Constantia and that of several dear friends, in the number of which let me reckon yourself, had not made that the most delightful spot in the world to me. I lost all patience at being so long deprived of them, and unable to live without the sight of my Constantia, I resolved at all events to undertake

take this journey; accordingly I put on this habit to keep myself the better from being known.—But may I, madam, continued he, looking tenderly at Constantia, without offence ask you the reason of the disguise I now see you in. Has any accident befallen you during my absence? Alas! a sad forboding tells me as much, and the dress I see you in hardly permits me to doubt it.”

“Would to heaven, my lord, reply’d Constantia, that your foreboding was false, but it seems as if fortune had made choice of us two for a compleatly unhappy pair; yet there is this difference between your misfortunes and mine, that love was the cause of your’s, and that by ceasing to love me you may put a stop to them; whereas mine are beyond my power, and can end only with my life. They would, however, have been still more dreadful, had it not been for this generous friend, who, to preserve me for my dear Henriquez, freed me from my prison, and gave me a retreat with one of his relations. I ought, perhaps, to blush at owning that I had recourse to the assistance of a man, but senior Ranucio is so well known to you for his honour and probity, that this will

will be alone sufficient to banish every injurious suspicion from your breast. As he is perfectly acquainted with all that has happened to me, he will be able to give you a better account of my adventures than I could do myself."

I could not but admire the great presence of mind of Constantia, in having given so dexterous a turn to appearances which were so much to her disadvantage, and what gave me still more pleasure was to find that Don Henriquez had not the least suspicion of the deceit; so true is it, that a beloved object, tho' never so culpable, will always appear innocent in our eyes. My friend desired me to relate to him his mistress's adventures, and the reasons that had brought her thither in that disguise. This was a commission of a very delicate nature; however I undertook it to extricate the lady from her dilemma, and recounted to him all that happened during his absence, suppressing only what related to the monk Pancraccio, and his perfidious behaviour, and in the room of his counterfeit aunt substituted the name of Donna Victoria, to whose house I told him I was that night conducting Constantia. Don Victoria was the relation to whom
my

my uncle, Don Antonio, had desired me to pay a visit, and with whom I had previously determined within myself to place Constantia before the arrival of her lover.

Henriquez thanked me over and over again for the pretended services I had done his mistress; but with regard to the asylum you had so kindly prepared for her, said he, I shall accept it no longer than for a few days, for I hope to employ the interest my friends have with the patriarch so effectually, as to obtain in a very little time a remission of her vows.

This agreeable news, and the manner in which I had conducted my relation, diffused such an air of gaiety over the countenance and behaviour of Constantia, that she had never appeared so beautiful to me as she did at that instant. The two lovers exchanged a thousand tender protestations, which would have held much longer had not my man Ambrose, who was surprized at my remaining so long at table, come to inform me that it was time to proceed on our journey. I observed this to the two lovers, who accordingly disposed themselves for setting out, and in a little time we arrived

rived at Asequeas. When we alighted at Donna Victoria's, we were told that she was not at home, being gone to church, I took this opportunity to quit Constantia and Henriquez and went to meet my aunt at her return home, in order to provide her for the reception of Constantia.

Happily for us she was none of those bigotted ladies who are always ready to think the worst of their neighbours, and imagine they should be partakers in their errors by giving them the least assistance. On the contrary, she had that true devotion which always makes those who possess it, ready to seize every opportunity of doing the greatest works of charity. This appeared to her in that light, and Constantia and her lover were received by the good lady with all imaginable civility and friendship. They could easily perceive by her behaviour, that she was informed of their whole story, but she was too well bred to give the least hint of it either in her words or actions. On the contrary, she did every thing in her power, both by her agreeable conversation and good cheer, to dissipate as much as possible any disagreeable reflections that might remain in the minds of her guests.

Don

Don Henriquez, who was continually fighting for the moment that was to unite him for ever to the object of his wishes, set out the very next day for Lisbon. Where he used his endeavours with such success, that he joined us again at the end of a week with his own pardon, and a full permission for Constantia to stand absolved from her vows, and to return again to the world, and the enjoyment of her fortune. We testified great surprise at seeing him return so speedily and with such success from a court that had for three years together been deaf to all intreaties on his behalf. "Your astonishment would be much greater, said he, addressing himself to Constantia, did you know that it is your mother, Donna Isabella, to whom we are indebted for this double favour." "O heavens! cry'd Constantia with transport, can I believe that she who was the most strenuous of all my relations to force me into a religious life, should have used her interest to get me absolved from it again?"

"You will be more ready to believe it, adorable Constantia, replied Don Henriquez, when I inform you of the motives that induced her to act in this manner. The great love she had for your brother,

brother, and his boundless ambition were the two sources of all your misfortunes, and to the latter of these passions we owe our present happiness. You must know then, that the very day in which you left your convent, she received the news of the death of your brother, Don Alphonso, who was killed in the late battle we gained against the Spaniards. This accident affected her in a sensible manner, not only on account of her great fondness for him, but that by his death she saw herself intirely destitute of heirs. In the first transports of her grief, she reproached herself for his death, which she looked upon as a judgment of heaven for the violence she had used towards you. To repair this as much as was in her power, she went immediately to your convent, where she was told that you was gone for a few days into the country. This threw her into a fresh uneasiness. The repugnance she had always observed in you to a religious life, gave her a suspicion that this pretended jaunt was only a cloak to a real elopement. To come at the truth she enquired which way you was gone, but no one could give her any account. This occasion'd new alarms, new enquiries,

ries, but all to no purpose; all Lisbon was searched for you, and in hopes of bringing you back the sooner, she caused the news of your brother's death to be made public, and her intention of taking you from the convent, getting you absolved from your vows, and procuring you an husband and an handsome settlement.

This was the whole talk of the city when I arrived there. Judge, lovely Constantia, what must have been my joy to have returned at a juncture so favourable to my love; I immediately flew to your mother's house, where I found her in all the agonies of a sincere grief. I had no longer any reason to doubt of it when I saw her burst into tears at the mention of your name. Alas! she cry'd, I deserve to lose her since I had the cruelty to sacrifice her to my ambition. It is I who have reduced her to the deplorable condition she is now in. Ah! perhaps despair has before this made her ——” “Have patience, madam, said I, interrupting her, your daughter is too virtuous and too noble of mind ever to do any thing unworthy of her birth and honor. Be persuaded that to whatever place she is retired, she is safe from all danger,

ger, or the suspicion of it. You would be convinced of this did you know the persons who have given her an asylum."

"What do I hear, father, said Isabella, In a transport of joy, is it, oh! is it possible that you should know where my dear child is?"

I told her that I did, and that I would even engage to restore you to her, provided that she would accept of the Count of Bellacina for a son-in-law. It is an alliance, said I, not unworthy of you. He is a young gentleman of a large fortune and of a noble family, and you cannot be ignorant that your daughter and he loved each other with tenderness. "Alas! I know it too well, reply'd your mother, but perhaps you are not informed that this young nobleman has not been heard of for these three years past; would to heaven I could find him out, and that he would accept of my daughter's hand."

I turned my head aside and taking off my beard, desired her to look a little steadfastly at me. "Ah! my lord, cry'd she, the instant she knew me, is it possible you could have kept yourself all this while concealed from my eyes? But who could ever have known you again in this disguise!" I told her my reasons for appearing

pearing before her in that dress, and acquainted her with the whole story of your elopement, with which she was so much affected that she promised instantly to obtain my pardon, and the abrogation of your vows. The effect you see has immediately followed the promise, and I have now the joy to behold myself on the point of possessing the object of all my wishes. Your mother gives her consent to our marriage, and is coming hither in person to put the final conclusion to it, and to return her thanks to Donna Victoria and senior Rancio for the friendships they have shewn to you, I left her at about a mile's distance and flew hither before her to be the joyful messenger of these happy tidings.

Scarce had Don Henriquez finished his relation, when we saw Isabella come in. Constantia no sooner perceived her chariot enter the court-yard, than she flew to meet her, and embraced her with the utmost tenderness. Donna Isabella melted into tears at seeing her daughter again, and expressed the greatest sorrow and contrition for what had passed. Nothing was now talked of but joy, love, and wedlock. The nuptials of Constantia
were

were fixed for the following week, but Don Henriquez, impatient to possess his lovely spouse, could not brook so long delay, and prevailed on Isabella to shorten the time. In fact her only reason for deferring the ceremony so long was, her being willing to have it performed in Lisbon, to avoid giving trouble to Donna Victoria; but that lady having assured her that it would be doing her the greatest honor and pleasure, it was performed the ensuing day, after which our two lovers, now completely happy, returned their thanks to Donna Victoria and myself, and set out with their mother for Lisbon.

END of the FIRST VOLUME.



